

THE MEDEA OF EURIPIDES.



PREFACE.

This school-edition of the *Medea* is based upon my larger edition (London: Macmillan and Co. 1881) and upon the works mentioned there in the Introduction. The notes have been completely re-written with a view to the present purpose: much has been added, and much also suppressed or modified. In particular, there will be found little discussion of the text. For this, and for a more full exposition of my own views, the teacher or the advanced student will not, I hope, object to be referred to the former work. The *Analysis* is long, but it has saved at least as many pages of notes, and may perhaps be not the least serviceable part of the commentary. The *Grammatical Index* has been constructed with a purely practical object, and does not of course pretend to completeness: those constructions only have been mentioned to which it seemed desirable to call attention.

I beg to return sincere thanks to the friends and critics who have favoured me with suggestions—I may mention the names of L. Campbell, Robinson Ellis, H. A. J. Munro, B. H. Kennedy, H. Gloël, N. Wecklein, and L. Schmidt; to the last I owe an especial acknowledgment for the very careful recension of my previous book in the *Philol. Anzeiger*, No. 7, p. 358. If my critics should find their views insufficiently recognised or discussed, it is to be attributed not to want of respect but to want of space.

Naturally not much that is new will be found here; something, however, is likely to appear, even upon the most familiar ground, in the course of five or six minute perusals. What there is, either my own or borrowed, may be seen chiefly in the *Analysis* and in the notes on 160, 181, 211, 214, 511, 707, 963, 1221, 1269, 1374.

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Dec. 22, 1882.

ΕΥΡΙΠΙΔΟΥ ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

ΤΑ ΤΟΥ ΔΡΑΜΑΤΟΣ ΠΡΟΣΩΠΑ.

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ.

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

ΑΙΓΕΤΣ.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ΠΑΙΔΕΣ ΜΗΔΕΙΑΣ.

ΥΠΟΘΕΣΙΣ.

Ἰάσων εἰς Κόρινθον ἐλθὼν, ἐπαγόμενος καὶ Μήδειαν, ἐγγυᾶται καὶ τὴν Κρέοντος τοῦ Κορινθίων βασιλέως θυγατέρα Γλαύκην πρὸς γάμον. μέλλουσα δὲ ἡ Μήδεια φυγαδεύεσθαι ὑπὸ Κρέοντος ἐκ τῆς Κορίνθου, παραιτησαμένη πρὸς μίαν ἡμέραν μείναι καὶ τυχοῦσα, μισθὸν τῆς χάριτος¹ δῶρα διὰ τῶν παιδῶν πέμπει τῇ Γλαύκῃ ἐσθῆτα καὶ χρυσοῦν στέφανον, οἷς ἐκείνη χρησαμένη διαφθείρεται· καὶ ὁ Κρέων δὲ περιπλακεὶς τῇ θυγατρὶ ἀπώλετο. Μήδεια δὲ τοὺς ἐαυτῆς παῖδας ἀποκτείνασα ἐπὶ ἄρματος δρακόντων πτερωτῶν ὃ παρ' Ἡλίου ἔλαβεν ἔποχος γενομένη ἀποδιδράσκει εἰς Ἀθήνας κάκει Αἰγεί τῷ Πανδίωνος γαμεῖται. Φερεκίδης δὲ καὶ Σιμωνίδης φασὶν ὡς ἡ Μήδεια ἀνεψήσασα τὸν Ἰάσωνα νέον ποιήσειε. περὶ δὲ τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτοῦ Αἴσονος ὁ τοὺς νόστους ποιήσας φησὶν οὕτως·

αὐτίκα δ' Αἴσωνα θῆκε φίλον κόρον ἠβιώνοντα,
γῆρας ἀποξύσασα ἰδυίησι πραπίδεσσι,
φάρμακα πόλλ' ἔψουσ' ἐπὶ χρυσείοισι λέβησιν.

Αἰσχίλος δ' ἐν ταῖς Διονύσου τροφοῖς ἱστορεῖ ὅτι καὶ τὰς Διονύσου τροφούς μετὰ τῶν ἀνδρῶν αὐτῶν ἀνεψήσασα ἐνεοποίησε. Στάφυλος δὲ φησὶ τὸν Ἰάσωνα τρόπον τινὰ ὑπὸ τῆς Μηδείας ἀναρεθῆναι· ἐγκελεύεσθαι γὰρ αὐτὴν οὕτως ὑπὸ τῇ πρύμνῃ τῆς Ἀργοῦς κατακοιμηθῆναι, μελλούσης τῆς νεὸς διαλύεσθαι ὑπὸ τοῦ

¹ An error: see 946, 964.

χρόνου· ἐπιπεσούσης γοῦν τῆς πρίμνης τῷ Ἰάσονι τελευτῆσαι αὐτόν.

τὸ δράμα¹ δοκεῖ ὑποβαλέσθαι παρὰ Νεόφρονος ἰσκεινάσας, ὡς Δικαίρχος... τοῦ τῆς Ἑλλάδος βίου καὶ Ἀριστοτέλης ἐν ὑπομνήμασι². μέμφονται δὲ αὐτῷ τὸ μὴ πεφυλακέναι τὴν ὑπόκρισιν τῇ Μηδεῖα, ἀλλὰ προπεσεῖν εἰς δάκρυα, ὅτε ἐπεβούλευσεν Ἰάσονι καὶ τῇ γυναικί. ἐπαινεῖται δὲ ἡ εἰσβολὴ διὰ τὸ παθητικῶς ἄγαν ἔχειν, καὶ ἡ ἐπεξεργασία³ ‘μηδ’ ἐν νάπαισι’ καὶ τὰ ἐξῆς. ὅπερ ἀγνοήσας Τιμαχίδας τῷ ὑστέρῳ φησὶ πρῶτῳ κεχρηῆσθαι, ὡς Ὅμηρος·

εἴματα τ’ ἀμφιέσασα θυώδεα καὶ λούσασα.

ΑΡΙΣΤΟΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΙΚΟΥ ΤΠΟΘΕΣΙΣ.

Μῆδεια διὰ τὴν πρὸς Ἰάσονα ἔχθραν τῷ ἐκείνων γεγαμηκέναι τὴν Κρέοντος θυγατέρα ἀπέκτεινε μὲν Γλαύκην καὶ Κρέοντα καὶ τοὺς ἰδίους υἱούς, ἐχωρίσθη δὲ Ἰάσονος Αἰγεί συνοικήσουσα. παρ’ οὐδετέρῳ κεῖται ἡ μυθοποιία⁴.

ἡ μὲν σκηνὴ τοῦ δράματος ὑπόκειται ἐν Κορίνθῳ, ὃ δὲ χορὸς συνέστηκεν ἐκ γυναικῶν πολιτίδων. προλογίζει δὲ τροφὸς Μηδείας. ἐδιδάχθη⁵ ἐπὶ Πυθοδώρου ἄρχοντος Ὀλυμπιάδος πζ’ ἔτει α’⁶. πρῶτος Εὐφορίων, δεύτερος, Σοφοκλῆς, τρίτος Εὐριπίδης Μηδεῖα, Φιλοκτήτη, Δίκτυο, Θερισταῖς σατύροις. οὐ σώζεται⁷.

¹ *The plot*. See the *Introduction*. δοκεῖ [ὁ Εὐριπίδης].

² Ἑλλάδος βίος and Ἵπομνήματα are antiquarian works by Dikaiarchos and Aristotle respectively.

³ *climax*. See on 3.

⁴ The plot is not found either in Aeschylus or in Sophokles.

⁵ *was represented*.

⁶ 431 B. C.

⁷ Refers apparently to the last mentioned play, the *Reapers*.

INTRODUCTION.

THE legend of Medea, as dramatised by Euripides, was adapted with an important change from the traditions respecting a certain festival, annually celebrated *by the Corinthians* at the temple of Hera on the Cape (*Ἡρα Ἀκραία*), which was probably not in Corinth proper but lay on the sea-coast over against Sikyon. In the play (see 1378) Medea founds this festival, to compensate the people of Corinth, through the spiritual dignity and other more material advantages connected with the celebration, for the stain of divine blood which she brings upon the land by murdering there her children, the descendants of Helios the Sun-god.

According to the Corinthian story, Medea, the daughter or grand-daughter of the Sun, a magician and prophetess, came to Corinth from the East, and acquired the sovereignty of the city. There her children were put to death, accounts differing as to the manner, but agreeing in this, that Hera, the patron-goddess of Corinth, was thereby offended, and punished the city, in the first place by a plague, and afterwards by a permanent annual tribute of seven boys and girls, who were dedicated for a year to the service of the goddess. It is more than probable that in this,

as in other cases, the symbolic offering had its origin in an actual sacrifice. The Greek Corinth with its patroness Hera absorbed and replaced an old Phœnician city, Ephyre, which must have worshipped the Phœnician moon-goddess after the Phœnician manner with human victims. The attributes of this moon-goddess, her descent from the sun and her powers of magic and prophecy, are represented in the person of Medea, while the rites survived in a more civilized form and under the sanction of a Greek story invented to account for them. To the Greeks Medea was no longer the goddess of the moon, but a favourite and devotee of their own moon-goddess Hekate (see *Med.* 397). The deity of Ephyre, both as the moon and as a Phœnician, was naturally said to have come from the East, and accordingly the later legend had to find a similar origin for her representative. The chief legendary link between East and West was the expedition of the Argonauts; and a place in the Argonaut story was found for the Corinthian moon-worshipper, who was identified with the daughter of Aietes, the son of Helios and king of Kolchis. According to that story, as worked out by a long succession of poets and followed by Euripides, when the Argonauts went to Kolchis, at the bidding of Pelias king of Iolkos, in Thessaly, to fetch the golden fleece, Medea fell in love with their leader Jason, and enabled him by her skill in magic to plough with a yoke of fire-breathing bulls, a feat imposed by her father as a condition for obtaining the object of the quest, and to escape the sleepless dragon by which it was guarded. Then, after murdering her brother

Apsyrtos to prevent pursuit, she fled with Jason to Hellas. They came first to Iolkos, where, to avenge Jason upon his usurping relative king Pelias, she caused the king's daughters to put him to death, persuading them by a successful experiment on a ram that by boiling his body with certain magic herbs he could be restored to youth. In consequence of this murder Jason and Medea fled from Iolkos to Corinth. (See the prologue 1—11, and the speeches of Medea and Jason 465—575.)

But with this ancient legend the play of Euripides deals only by way of allusion. The plot turns entirely upon the adventures of Medea at Corinth, and appears to have been invented for the stage, either by Euripides himself or, according to some authorities, by a preceding poet, Neophron of Sikyon. Starting from the tradition that at Corinth the children of Medea and Jason were put to death, the dramatist made the mother their murderess, and provided a motive for the crime in the unfaithfulness of Jason, who, deserting Medea, makes a new marriage with the daughter (not named) of Kreon, king of Corinth. To punish this ingratitude, Medea, having secured by magic aid the means of escape, and a place of refuge at Athens through the friendship of king Aigeus, contrives by poison the deaths of her rival and of Kreon, and after murdering her children by Jason with her own hands, departs in triumph with their bodies, leaving her husband to desolation and despair. In considering the drawing of character in this play it is important to remember that Medea is no civilized woman of Hellas (*Med.* 1339), but an Oriental

("barbarian") witch, half savage and half divinity. It was this peculiar character which attracted the dramatist, and led him to select her for the murderess in his plot. She is capable of entertaining such crimes, and capable of executing them.

The scene is laid before the house of Medea in Corinth, the decoration of the back-scene representing the house itself, and the orchestra an open space in front of it. The time is morning, the children having just quitted their exercises at the running-ground (46: see also 340, 355). The Chorus are women of Corinth, who feel sympathy with the misfortunes of their neighbour and pay her a visit of condolence. Two actors would be sufficient for all the parts, as there are never more than two speakers upon the stage. According to the Greek method of constructing a tragedy, the story is told by a series of monologues or dialogues separated by lyric songs, sung by the Chorus and accompanied with music and dancing. Here and there the Chorus, represented for this purpose by its leader (*κορυφαῖος*), assumes the part of an actor, conversing with the personages upon the stage or commenting upon what passes there. Some of their songs, in particular that which expresses their distress and agitation at the moment of the murder (1251—1292), appear to have been sung by single voices taking up the sentences in succession¹.

¹ A careful discussion of this point by O. Hense will be found in the *Rheinisches Museum*, Neue Folge, 1876, p. 582.

Analysis.

The play is divided as follows :

Prologue (πρόλογος) 1—130.

An old female servant of Medea, who from her story and from the list of *dramatis personæ* appears to have been her τροφός or attendant from childhood, wearied with vain endeavours to console her mistress, comes out of the house to relieve her feelings by complaining "to earth and heaven" (57). She describes with bitter regret the flight of Medea from her old home to Iolkos, and from Iolkos to Corinth, the recent marriage of Jason with the princess, and the effect of it upon Medea. She is anxious about Medea's health and much alarmed by her strange and menacing behaviour towards her children. Presently the children arrive, escorted by their παιδαγωγός (see on 49). From the conversation of the two servants we learn that there are rumours in the city of a fresh misfortune. King Kreon is said to have resolved on the expulsion of Medea from Corinth. While they are speaking, Medea is heard within, uttering laments and imprecations, which are repeated at the sight of the children (113) as the παιδαγωγός, after warnings to keep his news to himself and be careful of his charges, conducts them into the house.

Entrance of the Chorus (πάροδος) 131—212.

The Chorus, women of Corinth, give an explanation of their arrival, a common feature in a Greek play, technically called τὰ παροδικά. They have heard the cries of Medea, which are repeated from time to time

throughout the scene, and pitying her distress, have come to make enquiries. The nurse briefly describes the situation, and once more lets fall a vague hint of danger (171). The visitors suggest that if Medea could be induced to come out and talk with them it would be safer for the moment and might do her good. The nurse agrees to try her persuasions, wishing at the same time for a more powerful charm: music, she thinks (190), might have helped in such cases, if musicians had not wasted all their skill upon unnecessary accompaniments to the pleasures of the table. When she has left the stage the voice of Medea is heard replying to her supposed expostulations with angry laments (see 204); after a time the sounds subside, Medea, as the sequel shows, having yielded. [The part of the Chorus in this scene is divided into a *προφῶς* or prelude (131—137), a *στροφή* and corresponding *ἀντιστροφή* sung here as elsewhere by the halves of the Chorus respectively, and an *ἐπῶδος* or conclusion.]

First Episode (*ἔπεισόδιον*) in three scenes or sections, (1) Medea and the Chorus-leader, (2) Kreon and Medea, (3) Medea (214—409).

(1) Medea attended by servants (see 820) is led from the house and apologizes to her visitors for her hesitation before meeting them (214—227). She describes her forlorn condition, and protests against the hard destiny of women, who are compelled to choose a husband in ignorance and stake their whole existence upon the choice (228—251). She feels that her friends, having happy homes, can only imperfectly sympathize with her, but is encouraged to hope that

if she forms a plan to avenge herself upon her husband, for the sake of the sex they will not betray it. To this they all consent (267), and are thus morally bound over to the part of acquiescence which they afterwards play, and which, as theatrical usage required their presence throughout the piece, it was practically convenient that they should play.

(2) Kreon, who is to be figured as a very old man, (see 1209), arrives accompanied by guards, and orders Medea to quit the city at once and under his own eyes (269—276). Medea humbly asks the reason (277—281) and is told that the king fears danger to himself, his daughter and Jason, from her skill in black arts and her reported menaces (282—291). Medea exclaims against the disadvantages of learning and the reputation of learning (292—305), which yields no profit (296), and exposes the possessor to dislike in two forms, the *contempt* of the ignorant (298), and the *jealousy* of pretenders to knowledge (300). All this she has long known, but in Kreon she now finds the new hostility of *fear* ($\sigma\upsilon\delta' \alpha\delta' \phi\omicron\beta\epsilon\iota \mu\epsilon$, 306). This fear is needless; with Kreon and his daughter she has no quarrel, and though she will not conceal her resentment against Jason, she knows her helplessness too well to think of revenge (307—315). Kreon replies that a dissembling enemy is even more dangerous than an open, and repeats his commands (316—323). Medea falls at his feet, and after the Greek manner of supplication lays her hands first upon his knees (324) and then upon his arm (339). She entreats and he insists, the dialogue becoming rapid, and almost passing into a personal struggle.

She then begs (336) for a single day to prepare. To this Kreon reluctantly consents (348—356), and with strict injunctions not to exceed the time, leaves her.

(3) The Chorus express compassion for her desperate situation (357—363). Medea, instantly changing her tone, answers them that the delay which the king has been fool enough to grant will be quite enough for her vengeance (364—375). She deliberates upon open violence but decides at first (384) to employ the safer and more familiar method of poison. On second thoughts, she remembers that she has no home and therefore no motive for escaping (386), and resolves to wait a little for the chance of finding a refuge, but in the alternative (392) to seek death and revenge together. She clenches her resolution by recalling once more her dignity and her wrongs, and then addresses herself in earnest to the consideration of her plans (395—409). While she reflects, the Chorus sing the

First Stasimon (410—445). [The *στασιμὰ* or *στασιμὰ μέλη* are songs sung by the Chorus in *position* (*στάσις*) upon the orchestra. They are *strophic* (i.e. to a *στροφή* or stanza sung by one half of the Chorus answers a similar stanza or *ἀντιστροφή* sung by the other half), and mark off the main divisions of the action (*ἐπεισόδια*) from one another.]

Nature (they sing) is out of course (410, 411). Treachery and perjury must, after the conduct of Jason, be attributed to the male sex (412, 414), while woman will have her turn of praise (415—420). Poets must give up their favourite theme, the faithlessness of woman; for had the women been poets,

the charge might have been retorted; the past supplies abundant material to both sides (421—430).

Medea lost both home and father by her own fault, now she has lost by misfortune both home and husband, and is become an outcast. Truth and honour have, it seems, departed from Hellas (431—445.)

Second Episode (446—626), Jason, Medea, and the Chorus-leader. Jason enters, and addresses Medea in a cool and somewhat contemptuous tone. Her obstinacy in provoking powerful enemies has cost her a comfortable home, and it is well for her that it is no worse; for his own part, he bears no grudge; he has done his best to save her from herself, and for the sake of old kindness is ready even now to supply her and the children with means for their journey (446—464). Medea replies with a torrent of invective. She is glad that his impudence in facing her has given her the opportunity of speaking her mind (465—474). She reminds him that she saved his life (475) and avenged his wrongs (483), in return for which he has broken his solemn oath and, though a father, deserted his wife and children for the sake of indulging a new passion (488—498). With an ironical assumption of friendly confidence (499) she requests his advice as to her future course. Is not every home that she has had now closed against her by injuries done for his sake (499—508)? Her exile will publish his gratitude and doubtless redound to his credit (509—515). Bad metal is proved by testing; why is there no touchstone for bad men? (516—519). The Chorus stand shocked and helpless, their leader re-

marking that the quarrel of old lovers is without remedy (520, 521). Jason, however, is at no loss for a reply. After a sneer at his wife's "plague of tongue" (*γλωσσαλγία* 525), he observes that if she saved his life it was because she could not do without him. His thanks are due therefore not to her but to Love (526—531). And, waiving that, she has been more than paid in exchanging a brutal and obscure existence among savages, who could not appreciate her, for renown and a decent life in civilized Hellas (532—544). As for the charge that he has sacrificed her to his new love—on the contrary, his conduct has proved that he can both use his wits (*σοφὸς*) and control his inclinations (*σώφρων*) in order to obtain the power to protect her and his children (545—550). He is neither weary of Medea nor in love with the princess, but having though an exile had the happiness to please her, he has grasped the chance of raising himself, Medea and his family by means of the connexion from poverty to opulence. The prudence of this any one might see; but a woman, where her love is concerned, can see nothing else, and Medea is like the rest (551—575).

The Chorus-leader is staggered by Jason's pleading, and doubts her own judgment (*κεί παρὰ γνώμην ἐρῶ* 577), though she cannot admit that treachery is to be excused (576—578). But Medea is not to be embarrassed by subtleties. She does not agree with the common opinion that ingenuity in argument is useful to a villain. On the contrary, his confidence in his powers of misrepresentation makes him incautious in offending, and in the end exposes him to shame (579

—583). Let Jason, if he can, answer this—why, if his new marriage was so well-meant, he did not seek her consent to it? “Your present behaviour,” replies Jason, “answers why.” Medea repeats her charge, and Jason his denial, and arguments are exchanged for insults, till Jason (609) abruptly terminates the interview by repeating his offer of assistance; Medea indignantly refuses; Jason simply remarks that the responsibility is now hers and not his, and leaves without adieu, Medea flinging a taunt and a threat after him as he goes, and then relapsing into meditation (610—626).

Second Stasimon (627—662). The painful scene just past, the humiliation of Jason and the fury of Medea, suggests to the Chorus a prayer to be saved from the excesses of Love (627—642), and from the dangers of exile (643—652), of which they have before them a miserable example (653—656). They conclude with a curse upon ingratitude (657—662).

Third Episode in two scenes, (1) Aigeus and Medea, (2) Medea and the Chorus (663—823).

(1) Aigeus, king of Athens, arrives at Corinth by accident. He is on his way home from Delphi, where he has been consulting the oracle respecting his childlessness, and is going to Troizen, in the north-eastern corner of Peloponnesos, to submit to the wisdom of Pittheus, king of Troizen, the answer he has received. Medea is well known to him (677, compare 539) and he salutes her with great respect. After a dialogue which discloses these facts (663—687), Medea emphatically wishes him blessing and good-speed (688). Her tone awakens his attention; he notices the

signs of grief in her face and enquires the cause (689). In a rapid alternation of question and answer Medea acquaints him with her wrongs (690—708), and follows up the impression produced by imploring him, upon her knees, to give her an asylum in Athens. In return she promises by her arts to put an end to his childlessness (709—718). Aigeus, a kindly but cautious personage, thoroughly Greek in his prudent religion and benevolent selfishness (see 720), is tempted to consent, but gives Medea to understand that he will run no risk of offending his ally, the king of Corinth. Once in Athens, she would have (according to Greek “international law”) the right of a suppliant, and her enemies could not complain if she were protected; but in getting to Athens she must shift for herself (719—730). Medea accepts the terms but—here a difficulty arises. Medea knows, though Aigeus does not, that she intends before leaving Corinth to murder this very ally and his daughter. She foresees the pressure which the Corinthians will put upon Aigeus to give her up, and desires to lay him under the strongest possible obligation not to do so, the obligation of an oath. At the same time she is unwilling to betray suspicion in the very act of invoking his generosity. She puts her request, therefore, in the form of a suggestion for *his* benefit. Her enemies are powerful, and it will be well for him as a man of honour to secure himself against yielding by providing himself beforehand with a good answer to them. He will be better able to resist, if he can say “I have sworn”, than if he can merely say “I have promised” (734—740). Aigeus drily compliments her

on her "diplomatic foresight", but agrees that for him—and for her—it will be safer that he should swear (741—745), which accordingly he does, Medea dictating the oath (746—755), and then somewhat abruptly departs. The Chorus pray for his safe return and the fulfilment of his desires, and pronounce him "a worthy man".

(2) Medea, having now secured the refuge for which (see 390) she was looking, exults in the near prospect of revenge (764—771). She opens her plans to the Chorus, begging them, in her fierce impatience, to "take the tale unsweetened", or to use our English metaphor "unvarnished" (773): she will recall Jason, and by feigned submission obtain leave to send her children to the bride with a complimentary gift of a wreath and robe, under pretence of procuring, for them only, remission of the sentence of banishment. The gifts will be poisoned, and if the bride puts them on, she dies (774—789). Next, to complete the ruin of Jason's home, she will slay her own children and fly. Revenge is now her one possible good (798), and that she will have (790—810). The Chorus-leader attempts to protest, but Medea (819) declines discussion, and despatches an attendant, probably the Nurse, to fetch Jason.

[An interesting question arises here as to the stage-representation of the play. *When is the preparation of the poisoned wreath and poisoned robe supposed to take place?* At 789 Medea distinctly speaks of it as yet to be done—*τοιιοῖσδε χρίσω φαρμάκοις δωρήματα* (see the note on 963): at 950 it must be assumed that the gifts are lying in the house, easily ac-

cessible, and already charged with the deadly cosmetic.

Even if we neglect the words just quoted, or put a forced meaning on *χρίσω δωρήματα*, such as *the gifts will be anointed*, it is still impossible to suppose, either that Medea kept them always ready, or that she has prepared and laid them out before the commencement of the action. As to the first supposition, Medea would not long have retained her reputation for subtlety, if decorations, so tempting that no woman could refuse to put them on and so pernicious that the wearer must almost immediately die, had been commonly left in a place where a servant could find them at a moment's notice and without directions. Moreover the account of the death of the victims (1167—1219), marvellous enough in any case, is not even credible as fiction, unless the poison was and remained liquid; this is confirmed by the manner in which, from the circumstances and other evidence, we should infer that it was applied and concealed (see the note above-mentioned): and if so, it cannot have been applied very long before. By assuming that the preparation was performed in the early morning before the play commences, we no doubt avoid these objections, but it is difficult to believe that this is what the poet intended, when we find Medea, after the *unforeseen* sentence of banishment has forced her to action, still balancing the advantages of poison and dagger (376), and deciding for poison only after the *unforeseen* visit of Aigeus. It remains then to accept 789 in its plain sense, and we are then confronted with the necessity that *between 789 and 950 Medea*

must leave the stage. In the case of Sophokles' *Trachiniæ* a similar necessity is carefully provided for, and the time required for the operations of Deianira is assumed to elapse during a Choric song (Soph. *Trach.* 497—530) so constructed as not to demand her presence. If Euripides had arranged his *Medea* so as to make the story visibly impossible, we could scarcely have failed to hear of the blunder from Aristophanes, Aristotle and the other critics and satirists whom his popularity excited, and who pick or try to pick more than one hole in this very play. We conclude therefore that during the *Third Stasimon* (824—865), the only opportunity within the two limits, Medea retires to her "Colchian laboratory," as Horace has called it. But *ἔτι οὐ σμικροὶ πόνοι*—this seemingly simple solution has no small difficulties of its own. At the end of the *Third Stasimon* Jason evidently finds Medea already on the stage, and more than this, the latter part of the song, we might say the whole, is addressed to her. It is true that in the *Fifth Stasimon*, sung while Medea in the house is murdering the children, the third person (*ἀλλά νιν, ὦ φάος διόγενες, κάτειργε* 1258) is exchanged for the second (*μάταν ἄρα γένος φίλιον ἔτεκες* 1262), but there is an obvious difference between these exclamations and the urgent pleading of *μὴ πρὸς γονάτων σε πάντη πάντως ἰκετεύομεν τέκνα φονείσης* (855). Here the Chorus, it would seem, throw themselves before Medea's feet. It would be almost ludicrous to imagine that she is not to be seen.

It might perhaps occur for a moment that the infusion of the poison may take place by magic with-

out Medea's hand, but it is, I think, sufficient to raise the notion and dismiss it. So astounding a feat, performed and passing without remark, would throw the sudden miracle of the dragon-chariot (see hereafter) completely into the shade. Critics have not spared the chariot; but at least Medea has a time given her (1282—1316) in which to obtain it from Helios. Part of this interval (1282—1292), being mere musical moralizing with no dramatic import, we may, according to the stage-practice of Athens, suppose of any convenient length—all the three tragedians put whole battles into a few stanzas—and besides, who shall prescribe the rapidity of the Sun-god?

It must be left then in doubt, a doubt in some ways more instructive than certainty, how the course of the story was here visibly represented. The fact is, and the closer we study our texts, the more plainly it will appear, that we know little of the practical arrangements of the Greek theatre. If a conjecture is to be hazarded, we might reasonably guess that the interval covered by the *Third Stasimon* comprised something more than the recitation of the song given in our texts, music perhaps or a dance, and that during this "something more" Medea was absent from the scene¹].

¹ I have assumed throughout the above that the MSS. *χρῖσω* in 789 is, and I think the whole play shows it to be, correct. If we could suppose the reading to be *τοιούσδ' ἔχρισα φαρμάκοις*, it would be possible to place the poisoning in the *First Stasimon* (410—445), when Medea's presence on the stage does not seem to be absolutely required. But at that time

Third Stasimon (824—865). The prospect of Medea's flight to Athens gives an opportunity (useful to a poet desirous to please an Athenian audience) for introducing the praises of that city—the ancient splendour of her citizens, descended by two lines from two gods, Earth and the Athenian river Kephisos (824—835), concerning which last the Chorus relate a legend, signifying that Athens is the home of the Arts (836—845). How can such a city give hospitality to the murderess of her children (846—850)? They implore Medea to abandon her purpose (851—865,

Fourth Episode (866—975). Medea and Jason.

The servant returns bringing Jason, who asks what Medea has to say. She apologises humbly for her late peevish and unreasonable conduct. Cooler reflexion has shewn her the wisdom of the new marriage (872—883), which is so much for her good that she ought to have rejoiced in it as her own (884—888). Jason must remember that she is a woman, and not be hard upon her (889—893). [The speech is constructed with admirable skill as an appeal both to Jason's vanity and his better feelings. He is at once overcome, and shows it, as appears from the sequel, both by his manner and by his silence. It is plain that between 893 and 894 there is a 'tableau.' Probably Jason raises Medea into his arms.] She summons the children, who are brought by the *παιδαγωγός* from the house, to witness the reconciliation,

Medea has not resolved upon the use of poison definitely, but only in the less probable of two alternatives.

and at the sight of them bursts into tears—of emotion, she explains (894—905), the Chorus weeping with her (906—907). “Let bye-gones be bye-gones,” says Jason (908—913), and begins to anticipate the restoration of the children to Corinth (914—921). At this Medea weeps again, much to Jason’s surprise. She checks herself hastily and turns (932) to another subject. Will not Jason entreat the king that the children may remain? Jason hesitates (940); Medea, who has calculated on his reluctance, instantly suggests that he should send his bride to her father instead; Jason catches at the proposal (944) and observes jocosely that “with her he is likely to succeed.” “No woman can resist you,” replies Medea, adding, “and I shall reinforce you with a present.” While the wreath and robe are being brought from the house she dwells, to avert suspicion, upon their peculiar value as being the gift of the Sun-god (946—955). Jason ridicules the needless waste, but Medea urges that a gift never comes amiss, and despatches the children, accompanied by Jason and the *παιδαγωγός* (see 1003), upon their mission.

Fourth Stasimon (976—1002). [Between the Fourth and Fifth Episode some time, perhaps as much as half-an-hour, is supposed to elapse. During this the children go to the house occupied by Jason and the princess, where they are received with much delight by Jason’s servants (see 1140), and conducted to the women’s apartments. The princess is at first indignant, but overcome by the presents gives way and consents to prefer Jason’s petition to her father. From 1002 it would appear that she actually does so

and prevails. Jason retires with the children, who are reconducted by the *παιδαγωγός* to Medea. Whether Medea remains at her door the whole time, or retires and returns, does not appear from the text and is not important.]

The Chorus, in a very beautiful little song, lament the fatal deeds about to be accomplished.

Fifth Episode in five scenes (1) *παιδαγωγός* and Medea, (2) Medea, (3) *Interlude* sung or recited by the Chorus-leader, (4) Medea and a Servant of Jason (*ἄγγελος*), (5) Medea (1003—1250).

(1) The *παιδαγωγός* entering with the children, announces the success of the embassy, and is surprised at Medea's manner of receiving the news, which however he attributes to her grief at separating from her children. She sends him in (1002—1020).

(2) Medea's farewell to her children (1021—1080). [This celebrated monologue is remarkable not only for the powerful representation of the contest between the desire of vengeance and maternal love, but also for the Attic subtlety of its double meaning, the language being applicable either to Medea's supposed intention of leaving her children in Corinth or to her real intention of murdering them. See the notes. At 1055 there is a 'fausse sortie': Medea orders the children in, and speaks as if on the very point to follow them and execute her purpose, but wavers again. Then, suddenly remembering the princess (1063), she embraces them passionately once more, and sends them hastily into the house (1076). At the conclusion of the speech Medea either remains on the watch, or perhaps leaves the stage in the direction

of Jason's house as if looking anxiously for tidings, (see 1116).

(3) Here, at the crisis of the play, the stage being probably clear, the action is suspended by a solemn pause, during which the events narrated in 1167—1221 are supposed to take place. The anapaestic recitative here delivered by the Chorus or their leader (1081—1115) *is no part of the drama*, and contains no allusion to the events of it, though the subject—the trials of parents and advantages of the childless—is vaguely suggested by the story.

(4) Medea suddenly returns. She sees a servant of Jason coming at full speed. In a moment he rushes upon the stage, shrieking to her to fly. Medea calmly asks the reason, and on hearing that Kreon and his daughter are dead, requests the astonished servitor to oblige her with a fuller version of his agreeable news (1134. The cause of her security appears in the sequel.) This introduces the *ῥῆσις* or *narrative* (1136—1221), usually found in the plays of Sophokles and Euripides. The personage delivering it was called technically the *ἄγγελος* or *reporter*. The story, which comprises the visit of the children to the princess, her death, and that of Kreon, is, even for Euripides, remarkably graphic, but the conclusion (1222—1230) petty and pedantic. At 1230 the Servant leaves the stage.

(5) During the words of the Chorus-leader (1231—1235) Medea is nerving herself for the murder of the children. She briefly announces her final resolution to the Chorus (1236—1241), spurs herself to the deed with a few sharp sentences, and then, with a cry

of desperation, enters the house and shuts the door (1250; see 1313).

Fifth Stasimon (1251—1292, probably distributed among single voices). The Chorus, overawed by Medea's mien and prohibition (see 1054), stand without, praying wildly for divine interference (1251—1260), and warning the murderess that she will repent hereafter (1261—1270). The cries of the children are heard within, first two voices, then a single voice. All being over, the Chorus moralize upon the unexampled horror of the act (1279—1292), observing (1282—1289) that in the only such murder hitherto recorded the murderess condemned herself by suicide.

Exodos. Exit or Conclusion, in two scenes (1) Jason and the Chorus-leader, (2) Medea and Jason (1293—1414).

(1) Jason enters in haste accompanied by servants (see 1314). He asks for Medea, but stops himself, observing that her punishment is in other hands (1302) and it will be difficult to save even his children from the relatives of the murdered king and princess. Hearing the appalling truth, which is twice told before he can comprehend it, he is about to open the door when

(2) Medea appears above (1317), with the bodies of the children in a chariot drawn by dragons¹, the gift of the Sun-god. She defies him, and he answers with cursing and reproach. Medea treats his invective with disdain (1351), triumphs over his helplessness, and

¹ We learn this from the ancient commentary and introduction to the play.

retorts insult for insult (1361—1376). Finally she refuses his request for the restoration of the bodies (1377), for which she proposes to find a place of burial safer than Corinth (1378). Upon this the storm of mutual rage breaks out again, the verse changing (1389) to the anapæstic march with which the Chorus usually accompany their exits. Here the frightened women apparently steal away in silence, and in the wild imprecations of Jason the scene concludes¹.

Such is the framework of this famous drama, which from its production to the present day has been studied and praised by an almost unbroken succession of admirers. This popularity must be attributed, certainly not to any charm in the characters,—for though drawn with much truth to nature they are, with the unimportant exceptions of Aigeus and the servants, all unpleasing,—nor to delight of the imagination,—for there is a severe parsimony of ‘poetic colour,’—but to the sustained effect of the dramatic situations and the unsurpassed finish of the language. Terseness point and elegance prevail throughout, and there is scarcely a rough verse or a slovenly phrase from beginning to end. At the commencement of the Peloponnesian war (the *Medea* was first exhibited in 431 B.C.), this sort of merit, then a new discovery, was fast coming to be considered at Athens as the highest in art, and for a few generations after his own the name of “the golden Euripides” was synonymous with literary perfection. The worship of this fresh enthu-

¹ The ‘tag’ at the end (1415—1419), which is found in four other plays, has no connexion with this, and evidently does not belong to it.

siasm can never be rendered again, and will not even be fully comprehended just now. Our taste is perhaps rather for depth, any depth. In Euripides there is often both an upper current of meaning and an under-current, but both are transparently clear, and clearness is easily taken for shallowness. However, as long as men find interest in speech, so long, we may anticipate, will the masterpieces of Euripides continue to be, as they have been, among the first commended to the attention of the student. And "for unity of general effect no plays in the world excel the Hippolytus and the Medea."

ΕΥΡΥΠΠΙΔΟΥ ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ.

Εἴθ' ὄφελ' Ἀργούσ μὴ διαπτάσθαι σκάφος
 Κόλχων ἐς αἶαν κυανέας Συμπληγάδας,
 μῆδ' ἐν νάπαισι Πηλίου πεσεῖν ποτε
 τμηθείσα πένκη, μῆδ' ἐρετμῶσαι χέρας
 ἀνδρῶν ἀριστέων, οἳ τὸ πάγχρυσον δέρος 5
 Πελία μετῆλθον. οὐ γὰρ ἂν δέσποιν' ἐμῆ
 Μήδεια πύργους γῆς ἔπλευσ' Ἴωλκίας,
 ἔρωτι θυμὸν ἐκπλαγείσ' Ἰάσονος,
 οὐδ' ἂν κτανεῖν πείσασα Πελιάδας κόρας
 πατέρα κατώκει τήνδε γῆν Κορινθίαν 10
 ξὺν ἀνδρὶ καὶ τέκνοισιν, ἀνδάνουσα μὲν
 [φυγῆ πολίτων ὧν ἀφίκετο χθόνα]
 αὐτὴ τε πάντα συμφέρουσ' Ἰάσωνι—
 ἥπερ μεγίστη γίγνεται σωτηρία,
 ὅταν γυνὴ πρὸς ἄνδρα μὴ διχοστατῆ— 15
 νῦν δ' ἐχθρὰ πάντα, καὶ νοσεῖ τὰ φίλτατα.
 προδοῦς γὰρ αὐτοῦ τέκνα δεσπότην τ' ἐμὴν
 γάμοις Ἰάσων βασιλικοῖς εὐνάζεται,
 γήμας Κρέοντος παῖδ', ὃς αἰσυμνᾶ χθονός.
 Μήδεια δ' ἡ δύστηνος ἠτιμασμένη 20

- βοᾷ μὲν ὄρκους, ἀνακαλεῖ δὲ δεξιᾶς,
 πίστιν μεγίστην, καὶ θεοὺς μαρτύρεται
 οὔτως ἀμοιβῆς ἐξ Ἰάσονος κυρεῖ.
 κεῖται δ' ἄσιτος, σῶμ' ὑφέϊσ' ἀλγηδόσι,
 τὸν πάντα συντήκουσα δακρύοις χρόνον, 25
 ἐπεὶ πρὸς ἀνδρὸς ἦσθετ' ἠδίκημένη,
 οὔτ' ὄμμ' ἐπαίρουσ' οὔτ' ἀπαλλάσσοι γῆς
 πρόσωπον· ὡς δὲ πέτρος ἢ θαλάσσιος
 κλύδων ἀκούει νουθετουμένη φίλων,
 ἣν μὴ ποτε στρέψασα πάλλευκον δέρην 30
 αὐτὴ πρὸς αὐτὴν πατέρ' ἀποιμώζῃ φίλον
 καὶ γαῖαν οἴκουσ θ', οὓς προδοῦσ' ἀφίκετο
 μετ' ἀνδρὸς ὅς σφε νῦν ἀτιμάσας ἔχει.
 ἔγνωκε δ' ἡ τάλαινα συμφορᾶς ὑπο
 οἶον πατρῴας μάπολείπεσθαι χθονός. 35
 στυγεῖ δὲ παῖδας οὐδ' ὀρώσ' εὐφραίνεται.
 δέδοικα δ' αὐτὴν μὴ τι βουλευέσῃ νέον·
 βαρεῖα γὰρ φρήν, οὐδ' ἀνέξεται κακῶς
 πάσχουσ'· ἐγῶδα τήνδε, δειμαίνω τέ νιν·
 [μὴ θηκτὸν ὦση φάσγανον δι' ἥπατος, 40
 σιγῇ δόμους ἐσβᾶσ', ἔν' ἔστρωται λέχος
 ἢ καὶ τύραννον τόν τε γήμαντα κτάνη,
 κάπειτα μείζω ξυμφορὰν λάβῃ τινά.]
 δεινὴ γάρ· οὔτοι ραδίως γε συμβαλὼν
 ἔχθραν τις αὐτῇ καλλίνικον οἴσεται. 45
 ἀλλ' οἶδε παῖδες ἐκ τρόχων πεπαυμένοι
 στείχουσι, μητρὸς οὐδὲν ἐννοοῦμενοι
 κακῶν, νέα γὰρ φροντὶς οὐκ ἀλγεῖν φιλεῖ.

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ.

- παλαιὸν οἴκων κτῆμα δεσποίνης ἐμῆς,
 τί πρὸς πύλαισι τήνδ' ἄγουσ' ἐρημίαν . 50

ἔστηκας, αὐτὴ θρεομένη σαυτῇ κακά ;
πῶς σοῦ μόνη Μῆδεια λείπεσθαι θέλει ;

ΤΡ. τέκνων ὀπαδὲ πρέσβυ τῶν Ἰάσονος,
χρηστοῖσι δούλοις ξυμφορὰ τὰ δεσποτῶν
κακῶς πίτνοντα καὶ φρενῶν ἀνθάπτεται. 55
ἐγὼ γὰρ ἐς τοῦτ' ἐκβέβηκ' ἀλγηδόνος
ὥσθ' ἡμερός μ' ὑπῆλθε γῆ τε κοῦρανῶ
λέξαι μολούση δεῦρο δεσποίνης τύχας.

ΠΑ. οὔπω γὰρ ἡ τάλαινα παύεται γῶων ;

ΤΡ. ζηλῶ σ'· ἐν ἀρχῇ πῆμα κούδέπω μεσοῖ. 60

ΠΑ. ὦ μῶρος, εἰ χρῆ δεσπότας εἰπεῖν τόδε·
ὡς οὐδὲν οἶδε τῶν νεωτέρων κακῶν.

ΤΡ. τί δ' ἔστιν, ὦ γεραιέ ; μὴ φθόνει φράσαι.

ΠΑ. οὐδέν· μετέγνων καὶ τὰ πρόσθ' εἰρημένα.

ΤΡ. μὴ, πρὸς γενείου, κρύπτε σύνδουλον σέθεν· 65
σιγῆν γὰρ, εἰ χρῆ, τῶνδε θήσομαι πέρι.

ΠΑ. ἤκουσά του λέγοντος, οὐ δοκῶν κλύειν,
πεσσοὺς προσελθῶν, ἔνθα δὴ παλαιότεροι
θάσσοσι, σέμνον ἀμφὶ Πειρήνης ὕδωρ,
ὡς τούσδε παῖδας γῆς ἔλαν Κορινθίας 70
ξὺν μητρὶ μέλλοι τῆσδε κοῦρανος χθονὸς
Κρέων. ὁ μέντοι μῦθος εἰ σαφῆς ὄδε
οὐκ οἶδα· βουλοίμην δ' ἂν οὐκ εἶναι τάδε.

ΤΡ. καὶ ταῦτ' Ἰάσων παῖδας ἐξανέξεται
πάσχοντας, εἰ καὶ μητρὶ διαφορὰν ἔχει ; 75

ΠΑ. παλαιὰ καινῶν λείπεται κηδενμάτων,
κοῦκ ἔστ' ἐκεῖνος τοῖσδε δώμασιν φίλος.

ΤΡ. ἀπωλόμεσθ' ἄρ', εἰ κακὸν προσοίσομεν
νέον παλαιῶ, πρὶν τόδ' ἐξηγληκέναι.

ΠΑ. ἀτὰρ σύ γ', οὐ γὰρ καιρὸς εἰδέναι τάδε 80
δέσποιναν, ἡσύχαζε καὶ σίγα λόγον.

ΤΡ. ὦ τέκν', ἀκούεθ' οἶος εἰς ὑμᾶς πατήρ ;

- ὄλοιτο μὲν μὴ· δεσπότης γάρ ἐστ' ἐμός·
 ἀτὰρ κακός γ' ὢν ἐς φίλους ἀλίσκεται.
- ΠΑ. τίς δ' οὐχὶ θνητῶν; ἄρτι γινώσκεις τόδε, 85
 ὡς πᾶς τις αὐτὸν τοῦ πέλας μᾶλλον φιλεῖ,
 οἱ μὲν δικαίως, οἱ δὲ καὶ κέρδους χάριν,
 εἰ τούσδε γ' εὐνής εἶνεκ' οὐ στέργει πατήρ;
- ΤΡ. ἴτ', εὖ γὰρ ἔσται, δωμάτων ἔσω, τέκνα. 90
 σὺ δ' ὡς μάλιστα τούσδ' ἐρημώσας ἔχε,
 καὶ μὴ πέλαζε μητρὶ δυσθυμουμένη.
 ἤδη γὰρ εἶδον ὄμμα νιν ταυρουμένην
 τοῖσδ', ὡς τι δρασείουσαν· οὐδὲ παύσεται
 χόλου, σάφ' οἶδα, πρὶν κατασκῆψαί τινα.
 ἐχθρούς γε μέντοι, μὴ φίλους, δράσειέ τι. 95

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

- ἰώ,
 δύστανος ἐγὼ μελέα τε πόνων,
 ἰώ μοί μοι, πῶς ἂν ὀλοίμαν.
- ΤΡ. τόδ' ἐκείνο, φίλοι παῖδες· μήτηρ 100
 κινεῖ κραδίαν, κινεῖ δὲ χόλον.
 σπεύσατε θᾶσσον δώματος εἶσω,
 καὶ μὴ πελάσητ' ὄμματος ἐγγύς,
 μηδὲ προσέλθητ', ἀλλὰ φυλάσσεσθ'
 ἄγριον ἦθος στυγεράν τε φύσιν
 φρενὸς αὐθάδους.
- ἴτε νυν χωρεῖθ' ὡς τάχος εἶσω. 105
 δῆλον δ' ἀρχῆς ἐξαιρούμενον
 νέφος οἰμωγῆς ὡς τάχ' ἀνάψει
 μείζονι θυμῷ· τί ποτ' ἐργάσεται
 μεγαλόσπλαγχνος δυσκατάπαυστος
 ψυχῇ δηχθεῖσα κακοῖσιν; 110
- ΜΗ. αἰαί,

- ἔπαθον τλάμων ἔπαθον μεγάλων
 ἄξι' ὀδυρμῶν· ὦ κατάρatoi
 παῖδες ὀλοισθε στυγεράς ματρὸς
 ξὺν πατρὶ, καὶ πᾶς δόμος· ἔρροι.
- ΤΡ.** ἰὼ μοί μοι· ἰὼ τλήμων· 115
- τί δέ σοι παῖδες πατρὸς ἀμπλακίας
 μετέχουσι; τί τούσδ' ἔχθεις; οἴμοι,
 τέκνα, μή τι πάθῃθ' ὡς ὑπεραλγῶ· -
 δεινὰ τυράννων λήματα, καὶ πως
 ὀλίγ' ἀρχόμενοι, πολλὰ κρατοῦντες, 120
 χαλεπῶς ὄργας μεταβάλλουσιν.
 τὸ γὰρ εἰθίσθαι ζῆν ἐπ' ἴσοισιν
 κρείσσον· ἔμοιγ' οὖν ἐπὶ μὴ μεγάλοις
 ὀχυρῶς εἶη καταγηράσκειν.
- τῶν γὰρ μετρίων πρῶτα μὲν εἰπέειν 125
 τοῦνομα νικᾶ, χρῆσθαι τε μακρῶ
 λῶστα βροτοῖσιν· τὰ δ' ὑπερβάλλοντ'
 οὐδένα καιρὸν δύναται θνητοῖς·
 μείζους δ' ἄτας ὅταν ὀργισθῆ
 δαίμων οἴκοις ἀπέδωκεν. 130 -

ΣΟΡΟΣ.

- ἔκλυον φωνὰν, ἔκλυον δὲ βοᾶν
 τᾶς δυστάνου Κολχίδος· οὐδέ πω
 ἦπιος; ἀλλ', ὦ γεραῖα, λέξον.
 ἐπ' ἀμφιπίλου γὰρ ἔσω μελάθρου βοᾶν 135
 ἔκλυον· οὐδὲ συνήδομαι, ὦ γύναι,
 ἄλγεσι δώματος· εἰπέ, τί μοι, φίλα, κέκρανται;
- ΤΡ.** οὐκ εἰσὶ δόμοι· φροῦδα τὰδ' ἦδη.
 τὸν μὲν γὰρ ἔχει λέκτρα τυράννων, 140
 ἢ δ' ἐν θαλάμοις τήκει βιοτήν

δέσποινα, φίλων οὐδενὸς οὐδὲν
 παραθαλπομένη φρένα μύθοις.

ΜΗ. αἰαῖ,

διὰ μου κεφαλᾶς φλόξ οὐρανία
 βαίη· τί δέ μοι ζῆν ἔτι κέρδος; 145
 φεῦ φεῦ· θανάτῳ καταλυσάιμαν
 βιοτὰν στρυγερὰν προλιπούσα.

ΧΟ. ἄϊες, ὦ Ζεῦ καὶ γὰ καὶ φῶς, στρ.

ἰαχὰν οἶαν ἅ δύστανος
 μέλπει νύμφα;
 τίς σοί ποτε τᾶς ἀπλάτου 150
 κοίτας ἔρος, ὦ ματαία;
 σπείσει θανάτου τελευτά·
 μηδὲν τόδε λίσσου.

εἰ δὲ σὸς πόσις
 καινὰ λέχη σεβίζει, 155
 κείνῳ τόδε μὴ χαράσσουν·
 Ζεὺς σοι τάδε συνδικήσει.
 μὴ λίαν

τάκου δυρομένα σὸν εὐνάταν.

ΜΗ. ὦ μεγάλα Θέμι καὶ πόσις, ἄρτι με 160

λεύσσεθ' ἅ πάσχω, μεγάλοις ὄρκοις
 ἐνδησαμένα τὸν κατάρατον
 πόσιν; ὄν ποτ' ἐγὼ νύμφαν τ' ἐσίδοιμ'
 αὐτοῖς μελάθροις διακναιομένους,
 οἳ γ' ἐμὲ πρόσθεν τολμῶσ' ἀδικεῖν. 165
 ὦ πάτερ, ὦ πόλις, ὦν ἀπενάσθη
 αἰσχρῶς, τὸν ἐμὸν κτείνασα κάσιν.

ΤΡ. κλύεθ' οἷα λέγει κάπιβοᾶται 170

Θέμιν εὐκταίαν Ζῆνά θ', ὃς ὄρκων
 θνητοῖς ταμίας νενόμισται;
 οὐκ ἔστιν ὅπως ἔν τιμι μικρῶ

- δέσποινα χόλον καταπαύσει.
- ΧΟ. πῶς ἂν ἐς ὄψιν τὰν ἀμετέραν ἀντ.
 ἔλθοι, μύθων τ' αὐδαθέντων
 δέξαιτ' ὁμφάν, 175
 εἴ πως βαρύθυμον ὄργαν
 καὶ λῆμα φρενῶν μεθείη.
 μήτοι τό γ' ἐμὸν πρόθυμον
 φίλοισιν ἀπέστω.
 ἀλλὰ βᾶσά νιν 180
 δεῦρο πόρευσον οἴκων
 ἔξω· φίλα δ' εἰ τὰδ', αὐδα· -
 σπεύσον δέ τι πρὶν κακῶσαι -
 τοὺς ἔσω·
- πένθος γὰρ μεγάλως τόδ' ὄρμάται·
- ΤΡ. δράσω τὰδ'· ἀτὰρ φόβος εἰ πείσω
 δέσποιναν ἐμήν· 185
 μόχθου δὲ χάριν τήνδ' ἐπιδώσω.
 καίτοι τοκάδος δέργμα λεαίνης
 ἀποταυροῦται δμωσὶν, ὅταν τις
 μῦθον προφέρων πέλας ὄρμηθῆ.
 σκαιοὺς δὲ λέγων κούδέν τι σοφὸς 190
 τοὺς πρόσθε βροτοὺς οὐκ ἂν ἀμάρτοις,
 οὔτινες ὕμνους ἐπὶ μὲν θαλίαις
 ἐπὶ τ' εἰλαπίναις καὶ παρὰ δείπνοις
 ἠῦροντο, βίου τερπνὰς ἀκοὰς,
 στυγίους δὲ βροτῶν οὐδέεις λύπας 195
 ἠῖρετο μούσῃ καὶ πολυχόρδοις
 ψῆδαῖς παύειν, ἐξ ὧν θάνατοι
 δειναί τε τύχαι σφάλλουσι δόμους.
 καίτοι τάδε μὲν κέρδος ἀκεῖσθαι
 μολπαῖσι βροτούς· ἵνα δ' εὔδειπνοι 200
 δαῖτες, τί μάτην τείνουσι βοήν;

τὸ παρον γὰρ ἔχει τέρψιν ἀφ' αὐτοῦ
 δαιτὸς πλήρωμα βροτοῖσιν.

ΧΟ. ἰαχὰν αἶον πολύστονον γόων,
 λιγυρὰ δ' ἄχεα μογερὰ βοᾷ 205
 τὸν ἐν λέχει προδόταν κακόνυμφον·
 θεοκλυτεῖ δ' ἄδικα παθοῦσα
 τὰν Ζηνὸς ὀρκίαν Θέμιν, ἃ νιν ἔβασεν
 Ἑλλάδ' ἐς ἀντίπορον 210
 δι' ἄλα νύχιον ἐφ' ἄλμυρὰν
 πόντου κληῖδ' ἀπέραντον.

ΜΗ. Κορίνθιαι γυναῖκες, ἐξήλθον δόμων,
 μή μοί τι μέμφησθ'. οἶδα γὰρ πολλοὺς βροτῶν
 σεμνοὺς γεγῶτας, τοὺς μὲν ὀμμάτων ἄπο, 215
 τοὺς ἐν θυραίοις, οἱ δ' ἀφ' ἠσύχου ποδὸς
 δύσκλειαν ἐκτήσαντο καὶ ῥαθυμία.
 δίκη γὰρ οὐκ ἔνεστ' ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖς βροτῶν,
 ὅστις πρὶν ἀνδρὸς ὑπλάγχνον ἐκμαθεῖν σαφῶς 220
 στύγεί δεδορκῶς, οὐδὲν ἠδικημένος·
 χρῆ δὲ ξένον μὲν κάρτα προσχωρεῖν πόλει,
 οὐδ' ἀστὸν ἦνεσ' ὅστις αὐθάδης γεγῶς
 πικρὸς πολίταις ἐστὶν ἀμαθίας ὕπο.
 ἐμοὶ δ' ἄελπτον πρᾶγμα προσπεσὸν τόδε 225
 ψυχὴν διέφθαρκ'. οἴχομαι δὲ καὶ βίου
 χάριν μεθεῖσα καταθεῖν χρεῖζω, φίλαι.
 ἐν ᾧ γὰρ ἦν μοι πάντα γιγνώσκειν καλῶς,
 κάκιστος ἀνδρῶν ἐκβέβηχ' οὐμὸς πόσις.
 πάντων δ' ὅσ' ἐστ' ἔμψυχα καὶ γνώμην ἔχει 230
 γυναῖκές ἐσμεν ἀθλιώτατον φυτόν·
 ἄς πρῶτα μὲν δεῖ χρημάτων ὑπερβολῇ
 πόσιν πρίασθαι δεσπότην τε σώματος
 λαβεῖν· λαβεῖν γὰρ οὐ—τόδ' ἄλγιον κακόν·
 κὰν τῷδ' ἀγῶν μέγιστος, ἢ κακὸν λαβεῖν 235

ἢ χρηστόν· οὐ γὰρ εὐκλείεις ἀπαλλαγὰι
 γυναιξίν, οὐδ' οἶόν τ' ἀνήνασθαι πόσιν.
 ἐς καινὰ δ' ἦθη καὶ νόμους ἀφιγμένην
 δεῖ μάντιν εἶναι, μὴ μαθοῦσαν οἴκοθεν,
 ὅτῳ μάλιστα χρήσεται ξυνευέτη. 240

κἂν μὲν τάδ' ἡμῖν ἐκπονουμέναισιν εὖ
 πόσις ξυνοικῆ, μὴ βία φέρων ζυγόν,
 ζηλωτὸς αἰών· εἰ δὲ μὴ, θανεῖν χρεών.
 ἀνὴρ δ' ὅταν τοῖς ἔνδον ἄχθηται ξυνών,
 ἔξω μολῶν ἔπαυσε καρδίαν ἄσης· 245

[ἢ πρὸς φίλον τιν' ἢ πρὸς ἡλικά τραπέϊς]
 ἡμῖν δ' ἀνάγκη πρὸς μίαν ψυχὴν βλέπειν.
 λέγουσι δ' ἡμᾶς ὡς ἀκίνδυνον βίον
 ζῶμεν κατ' οἴκους, οἱ δὲ μάρνανται δορὶ,
 κακῶς φρονοῦντες· ὡς τρὶς ἂν παρ' ἀσπίδα 250
 στήναι θέλοιμ' ἂν μᾶλλον ἢ τεκεῖν ἄπαξ.

ἀλλ' οὐ γὰρ αὐτὸς πρὸς σὲ κάμ' ἦκει λόγος·
 σοὶ μὲν πόλις θ' ἦδ' ἐστὶ καὶ πατρὸς δόμοι
 βίου τ' ὄνησις καὶ φίλων κοινωνία,
 ἐγὼ δ' ἔρημος, ἄπολις οὖσ' ὑβρίζομαι 255
 πρὸς ἀνδρὸς, ἐκ γῆς βαρβάρου λελησμένη,
 οὐ μητέρ', οὐκ ἀδελφόν, οὐχὶ συγγενῆ
 μεθορμίσασθαι τῆσδ' ἔχουσα συμφορᾶς.

τοσοῦτον οὖν σου τυγχάνειν βολήσομαι,
 ἦν μοι πόρος τις μηχανή τ' ἐξευρεθῆ, 260
 πόσιν δίκην τῶνδ' ἀντιτίσασθαι κακῶν,
 [τὸν δόντα τ' αὐτῷ θυγατέρ' ἦν τ' ἐγῆματο]
 σιγᾶν. γυνὴ γὰρ τᾶλλα μὲν φόβου πλέα,
 κακῆ δ' ἐς ἀλκὴν καὶ σίδηρον εἰσορᾶν·

ὅταν δ' ἐς εὐνὴν ἠδίκημένη κυρῆ, 265
 οὐκ ἔστιν ἄλλη φρῆν μαιφονωτέρα.

ΧΟ. δράσω τάδ'· ἐνδίκως γὰρ ἐκτίσει πόσιν,

Μήδεια. πενθεῖν δ' οὐ σε θαυμάζω τύχας.
 ὀρώ δὲ καὶ Κρέοντα, τῆσδ' ἄνακτα γῆς,
 στείχοντα, καινῶν ἄγγελον βουλευμάτων. 270

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

σὲ τὴν σκυθρωπὸν καὶ πόσει θυμουμένην,
 Μήδειαν, εἶπον τῆσδε γῆς ἔξω περᾶν
 φυγάδα, λαβοῦσαν δισσὰ σὺν σαυτῇ τέκνα,
 καὶ μή τι μέλλειν· ὡς ἐγὼ βραβεὺς λόγου
 τοῦδ' εἰμὶ, κοῦκ ἄπειμι πρὸς δόμους πάλιν, 275
 πρὶν ἂν σε γαίας τερμόνων ἔξω βάλω.

ΜΗ. αἰαί· πανώλης ἢ τάλαιν' ἀπόλλυμαι.
 ἐχθροὶ γὰρ ἐξιᾶσι πάντα δὴ κάλων,
 κοῦκ ἔστιν ἄτης εὐπρόσοιστος ἔκβασις.
 ἐρήσομαι δὲ καὶ κακῶς πάσχουσ' ὅμως, 280
 τίνος μ' ἔκατι γῆς ἀποστέλλεις, Κρέον;

ΚΡ. δέδοικά σ', οὐδὲν δεῖ παραμπέχειν λόγους,
 μή μοί τι δράσης παιδ' ἀνήκεστον κακόν.
 ξυμβάλλεται δὲ πολλὰ τοῦδε δείματος·
 σοφὴ πέφυκας καὶ κακῶν πολλῶν ἴδρις, 285
 λυπεῖ δὲ λέκτρων ἀνδρὸς ἔστηρημένη.
 κλύω δ' ἀπειλεῖν σ', ὡς ἀπαγγέλλουσί μοι,
 τὸν δόντα καὶ γήμαντα καὶ γαμουμένην
 δράσειν τι· ταῦτ' οὖν πρὶν παθεῖν φυλάξομαι.
 κρεῖσσον δέ μοι νῦν πρὸς σ' ἀπεχθέσθαι, γύναι, 290
 ἢ μάλθακισθένθ' ὕστερον μεταστένειν.

ΜΗ. φεῦ φεῦ·
 οὐ νῦν με πρῶτον, ἀλλὰ πολλάκις, Κρέον,
 ἔβλαψε δόξα μεγάλα τ' εἴργασται κακά.
 χρὴ δ' οὐποθ' ὅστις ἀρτίφρων πέφυκ' ἀνὴρ
 παῖδας περισώσῃ ἐκδιδάσκεσθαι σοφούς· 295

- χωρὶς γὰρ ἄλλης ἧς ἔχουσιν ἀργίας
 φθόνον πρὸς ἀστῶν ἀλφάνουσι δυσμενῆ.
 σκαιοῖσι μὲν γὰρ καινὰ προσφέρων σοφὰ
 δόξεις ἀχρεῖος κοῦ σοφὸς πεφυκέναι·
 τῶν δ' αὖ δοκούντων εἶδέναι τι ποικίλον 300
 κρείσσω νομισθεῖς λυπρὸς ἐν πόλει φανεῖ.
 ἐγὼ δὲ καυτῇ τῆσδε κοινωνῶ τύχης.
 σοφῇ γὰρ οὔσα τοῖς μὲν εἰμ' ἐπίφθονος,
 [τοῖς δ' ἤσυχαιά, τοῖς δὲ θατέρου τρόπου]
 τοῖς δ' αὖ προσάντης εἰμὶ κοῦκ ἄγαν σοφῇ. 305
 σὺ δ' αὖ φοβεῖ με μὴ τι πλημμελὲς πάθης.
 οὐχ ᾧδ' ἔχει μοι—μὴ τρέσῃς ἡμᾶς, Κρέον—
 ὥστ' ἐς τυράννους ἄνδρας ἐξαμαρτάνειν.
 σὺ γὰρ τί μ' ἠδίκηκας; ἐξέδου κόρην
 ὅτῳ σε θυμὸς ἦγεν. ἀλλ' ἐμὸν πόσιν 310
 μισῶ· σὺ δ', οἶμαι, σωφρονῶν ἔδρας τάδε.
 καὶ νῦν τὸ μὲν σὸν οὐ φθονῶ καλῶς ἔχειν.
 νυμφεύετ', εὖ πράσσοιτε· τήνδε δὲ χθόνα
 ἔατέ μ' οἰκεῖν· καὶ γὰρ ἠδικοῦμενοι
 σιγησόμεσθα, κρεισσόνων νικώμενοι. 315
- ΚΡ. λέγεις ἀκοῦσαι μαλθάκ', ἀλλ' ἔσω φρενῶν
 ὄρρωδία μοι μὴ τι βουλευῆς κακὸν,
 τοσῶδε δ' ἦσσον ἢ πάρος πέποιθά σοι·
 γυνὴ γὰρ ὀξύθυμος, ὡς δ' αὐτῶς ἀνὴρ,
 ῥάων φυλάσσειν ἢ σιωπηλὸς σοφός. 320
 ἀλλ' ἔξιθ' ὡς τάχιστα, μὴ λόγους λέγε·
 ὡς ταῦτ' ἄραρε, κοῦκ ἔχεις τέχνην ὅπως
 μενεῖς παρ' ἡμῖν, οὔσα δυσμενῆς ἐμοί.
- ΜΗ. μὴ, πρὸς σε γονάτων τῆς τε νεογάμου κόρης.
- ΚΡ. λόγους ἀναλοῖς· οὐ γὰρ ἂν πείσαις ποτέ. 325
- ΜΗ. ἀλλ' ἐξελᾶς με, κοῦδὲν αἰδέσει λιτάς;
- ΚΡ. φιλῶ γὰρ οὐ σὲ μᾶλλον ἢ δόμους ἐμούς.

- ΜΗ. ὦ πατρίς, ὡς σου κάρτα νῦν μνείαν ἔχω.
 ΚΡ. πλὴν γὰρ τέκνων ἔμοιγε φίλτατον πολὺ.
 ΜΗ. φεῦ φεῦ· βροτοῖς ἔρωτες ὡς κακὸν μέγα. 330
 ΚΡ. ὅπως ἂν, οἶμαι, καὶ παραστῶσιν τύχαι.
 ΜΗ. Ζεῦ, μὴ λάθοι σε τῶνδ' ὅς αἴτιος κακῶν.
 ΚΡ. ἔρπ', ὦ ματαία, καὶ μ' ἀπάλλαξον πόνων.
 ΜΗ. πονοῦμεν ἡμεῖς κοῦ πόνων κεχρήμεθα.
 ΚΡ. τάχ' ἐξ ὀπαδῶν χειρὸς ὠσθήσει βία. 335
 ΜΗ. μὴ δῆτα τοῦτό γ', ἀλλά σ' αἰτοῦμαι, Κρέον.
 ΚΡ. ὄχλον παρέξεις, ὡς ἔοικας, ὦ γύναι.
 ΜΗ. φευξοῦμεθ'· οὐ τοῦθ' ἰκέτευσα σοῦ τυχεῖν.
 ΚΡ. τί οὖν βιάζει κοῦκ ἀπαλλάσσει χειρός;
 ΜΗ. μίαν με μείναι τήνδ' ἔασον ἡμέραν 340
 καὶ ξυμπερᾶναι φροντιδ' ἧ φευξοῦμεθα,
 παισίν τ' ἀφορμὴν τοῖς ἐμοῖς, ἐπεὶ πατὴρ
 οὐδὲν προτιμᾷ μηχανήσασθαι τέκνοισ.
 οἴκτειρε δ' αὐτούς· καὶ σύ τοι παίδων πατὴρ·
 [πέφυκας εἰκὸς δ' ἐστὶν εὐνοϊάν σ' ἔχειν] 345
 τοῦμοῦ γὰρ οὐ μοι φροντις, εἰ φευξοῦμεθα,
 κείνους δὲ κλαίω ξυμφορᾷ κεχρημένους.
 ΚΡ. ἤκιστα τοῦμόν λημ' ἔφν τυραννικόν,
 αἰδούμενος δὲ πολλὰ δὴ διέφθορα·
 καὶ νῦν ὀρῶ μὲν ἐξαμαρτάνων, γύναι, 350
 ὅμως δὲ τεύξει τοῦδε· προὐννέπω δέ σοι,
 εἴ σ' ἡ' πιούσα λαμπὰς ὄψεται θεοῦ
 καὶ παῖδας ἐντὸς τῆσδε θερμόνων χθονός,
 θανεῖ· λέλεκται μῦθος ἀψευδῆς ὅδε.
 νῦν δ', εἰ μένειν δεῖ, μίμν' ἐφ' ἡμέραν μίαν· 355
 οὐ γάρ τι δράσεις δεινὸν ὦν φόβος μ' ἔχει.
 ΧΟ. δύστανε γύναι,
 φεῦ φεῦ, μελέα τῶν σῶν ἀχέων.
 ποῦ ποτε τρέψει; τίνα προξενίαν,

ἢ δόμον, ἢ χθόνα, σωτήρα κακῶν ; 360
 ὡς εἰς ἄπορόν σε κλύδωνα θεός,
 Μήδεια, κακῶν ἐπόρευσε.

ΜΗ. κακῶς πέπρακται πανταχῆ· τίς ἀντερεῖ ;
 ἀλλ' οὔτι ταῦτη ταῦτα, μὴ δοκεῖτέ, πω. 365
 ἔτ' εἶσ' ἀγῶνες τοῖς νεωστὶ νυμφίοις,
 καὶ τοῖσι κηδεύσασιν οὐ σμικροὶ πόνοι.
 δοκεῖς γὰρ ἂν με τόνδε θωπεύσαι ποτε,
 εἰ μὴ τι κερδαίνουσαν ἢ τεχνωμένην ;
 οὐδ' ἂν προσεῖπον οὐδ' ἂν ἠψάμην χεροῖν. 370
 ὁ δ' ἐς τοσοῦτον μωρίας ἀφίκετο
 ὥστ', ἐξὸν αὐτῷ τὰμ' ἐλεῖν βουλευμάτα
 γῆς ἐκβαλόντι, τήνδ' ἀφήκεν ἡμέραν
 μείναι μ', ἐν ἣ τρεῖς τῶν ἐμῶν ἐχθρῶν νεκροὺς
 θήσω, πατέρα τε καὶ κόρην πόσιν τ' ἐμόν. 375
 πολλὰς δ' ἔχουσα θανασίμους αὐτοῖς ὁδοὺς,
 οὐκ οἶδ' ὅποια πρῶτον ἐγχειρῶ, φίλαι,
 πότερον ὑφάψω δῶμα νυμφικὸν πυρὶ,
 ἢ θηκτὸν ὤσω φάσγανον δι' ἥπατος,
 σιγῇ δόμους ἐσβάσ' ἵν' ἔστρωται λέχος. 380
 ἀλλ' ἐν τί μοι πρόσαντες· εἰ ληφθήσομαι
 δόμους ὑπερβαίνουσα καὶ τεχνωμένη,
 θανούσα θήσω τοῖς ἐμοῖς ἐχθροῖς γέλων.
 κράτιστα τὴν εὐθείαν, ἣ πεφύκαμεν
 σοφοὶ μάλιστα, φαρμάκοις αὐτοὺς ἐλεῖν. 385
 εἶεν·
 καὶ δὴ τεθνήασι· τίς με δέξεται πόλις ;
 τίς γῆν ἄσυλον καὶ δόμους ἐχεγγύους
 ξένος παρασχὼν ῥύσεται τοῦμὸν δέμας ;
 οὐκ ἔστι μείνας' οὖν ἔτι σμικρὸν χρόνον,
 ἣν μὲν τις ἡμῖν πύργος ἀσφαλῆς φανῆ, 390
 δόλω μέτειμι τόνδε καὶ σιγῇ φόνον,

- ἦν δ' ἐξελαύνη ξυμφορά μ' ἀμήχανος,
 αὐτῇ ξίφος λαβοῦσα, κεί μέλλω θανεῖν,
 κτενῶ σφε, τόλμης δ' εἶμι πρὸς τὸ καρτερόν.
 οὐ γὰρ μὰ τὴν δέσποιναν, ἦν ἐγὼ σέβω 395
 μάλιστα πάντων καὶ ξυνεργὸν εἰλόμην,
 Ἐκάτην, μυχοῖς ναίουσαν ἐστίας ἐμῆς,
 χαίρων τις αὐτῶν τοῦμὸν ἀλγυνεῖ κέαρ.
 πικροὺς δ' ἐγὼ σφιν καὶ λυγροὺς θήσω γάμους,
 πικρὸν δὲ κῆδος καὶ φυγὰς ἐμὰς χθονός. 400
 ἀλλ' εἶα· φείδου μηδὲν ὦν ἐπίστασαι,
 Μήδεια, βουλευούσα καὶ τεχνωμένη·
 ἔρπ' ἐς τὸ δεινόν· νῦν ἀγὼν εὐψυχίας.
 ὀρᾶς ἂ πάσχεις; οὐ γέλωτα δεῖ σ' ὀφλεῖν
 τοῖς Σισυφείοις τοῖσδ' Ἰάσονος γάμοις, 405
 γεγῶσαν ἐσθλοῦ πατρὸς Ἥλιου τ' ἄπο.
 ἐπίστασαι δέ· πρὸς δὲ καὶ πεφύκαμεν
 γυναικες, ἐς μὲν ἔσθλ' ἀμηχανώταται,
 κακῶν δὲ πάντων τέκτονες σοφώταται. 409
- ΧΟ. ἄνω ποταμῶν ἱερῶν χωροῦσι παγαί, στρ. α'.
 καὶ δίκαια καὶ πάντα πάλιν στρέφεται.
 ἀνδράσι μὲν δόλια βουλαί, θεῶν δ'
 οὐκέτι πίστις ἄραρε. [μαι. 414, 5
 τὰν δ' ἐμὰν εὐκλειαν ἔχειν βιοτὰν στρέψουσι φᾶ-
 ἔρχεται τιμὰ γυναικείῳ γένει·
 οὐκέτι δυσκέλαδος φάμα γυναικῆς ἔξει. 418, 9
 μούσαι δὲ παλαιγενέων λήξουσ' αἰοιδᾶν ἀντ. α'.
 τὰν ἐμὰν ὑμνεῦσαι ἀπιστοσύναν.
 οὐ γὰρ ἐν ἀμετέρα γνώμα λύρας
 ὠπασε θέσπιν αἰοιδᾶν 424
 Φοῖβος, ἀγήτωρ μελέων· ἐπεὶ ἀντάχῃσ' ἂν ὕμνον
 ἀρσένων γέννα· μακρὸς δ' αἰὼν ἔχει 427, 8
 πολλὰ μὲν ἀμετέραν ἀνδρῶν τε μοῖραν εἰπεῖν.

σὺ δ' ἐκ μὲν οἴκων πατρίων ἔπλευσας **στρ. β'.**
 μαινομένα κραδία, διδύμους ὄρισασα πόντου
 πέτρας· ἐπὶ δὲ ξένα·

ναίεις χθονὶ, τὰς ἀνάνδρου
 κοίτας ὀλέσασα λέκτρον, **435**
 τάλαινα, φυγὰς δὲ χώρας
 ἄτιμος ἐλαύνει.

βέβακε δ' ὄρκων χάρις, οὐδ' ἔτ' αἰδῶς **ἀντ. β'.**
 Ἑλλάδι τῆ μεγάλα μένει, αἰθερία δ' ἀνέπτα.

σοὶ δ' οὔτε πατρὸς δόμοι, **440**
 δύστανε, μεθορμίσασθαι
 μόχθων πάρα, σῶν δὲ λέκτρων
 ἄλλα βασιλεία κρείσσων
 δόμοισιν ἐπέστα. **445**

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

οὐ νῦν κατεῖδον πρῶτον, ἀλλὰ πολλάκις
 τραχεῖαν ὄργην ὡς ἀμήχανον κακόν.
 σοὶ γὰρ παρὸν γῆν τήνδε καὶ δόμους ἔχειν,
 κούφως φερούση κρεισσόνων βουλευμάτα,
 λόγων ματαίων οὔνεκ' ἐκπεσεῖ χθονός. **450**

κάμοι μὲν οὐδὲν πρᾶγμα· μὴ παύση ποτὲ
 λέγουσ' Ἰάσων ὡς κάκιστός ἐστ' ἀνὴρ·
 ἃ δ' ἐς τυράννους ἐστί σοι λελεγμένα,
 πᾶν κέρδος ἠγοῦ ζημιουμένη φυγῆ.
 καγὼ μὲν αἰὲ βασιλέων θυμουμένων **455**

ὄργας ἀφήρουν, καὶ σ' ἐβουλόμην μένειν·
 σὺ δ' οὐκ ἀνίεις μωρίας, λέγουσ' αἰὲ
 κακῶς τυράννους· τοιγὰρ ἐκπεσεῖ χθονός.
 ὅμως δὲ κακ τῶνδ' οὐκ ἀπειρηκῶς φίλοις
 ἦκω, τόσον γε προσκοπούμενος, γύναι, **460**
 ὡς μήτ' ἀχρήμων ξὺν τέκνοισιν ἐκπέσῃς

μήτ' ἐνδεής του. πόλλ' ἐφέλκεται φυγή
κακὰ ξὺν αὐτῇ· καὶ γὰρ εἰ σύ με στυγεῖς,
οὐκ ἂν δυναίμην σοὶ κακῶς φρονεῖν ποτε.

ΜΗ. ὦ παγκακίστε—τοῦτο γὰρ σ' εἶπεῖν ἔχω— 465

[γλώσση μέγιστον εἰς ἀνανδρίαν κακὸν]
ἦλθες πρὸς ἡμᾶς, ἦλθες, ἔχθιστος γεγώς;
[θεοῖς τε κάμοι παντί τ' ἀνθρώπων γένει]
οὔτοι θράσος τόδ' ἐστὶν οὐδ' εὐτολμία,
[φίλους κακῶς δράσαντ' ἐναντίον βλέπειν] 470
ἀλλ' ἢ μεγίστη τῶν ἐν ἀνθρώποις νόσων
πασῶν, ἀναΐδει· εὖ δ' ἐποίησας μολῶν.

ἐγὼ τε γὰρ λέξασα κουφισθήσομαι
ψυχὴν κακῶς σε καὶ σὺ λυπήσει κλύων.
ἐκ τῶν δὲ πρώτων πρώτον ἄρξομαι λέγειν. 475

ἔσωσά σ', ὡς ἴσασιν Ἑλλήνων ὅσοι
ταῦτ' ἐξενεισέβησαν· Ἀργῶν σκάφος,
πεμφθέντα ταύρων πυρπνῶν ἐπιστάτην
ζεύγλαισι, καὶ σπεροῦντα θανάσιμον γύην·
δράκοντά θ', ὅς πάγχρυσον ἀμπέχων δέρος 480
σπείραις ἔσωζε πολυπλόκοις αὔπνος ὦν,
κτείνας ἀνέσχον σοὶ φάος σωτήριον.

αὐτὴ δὲ πατέρα καὶ δόμους προδοῦσ' ἐμοῦς
τὴν Πηλιῶτιν εἰς Ἴωλκὸν ἰκόμην
ξὺν σοι, πρόθυμος μᾶλλον ἢ σοφωτέρα, 485

Πελίαν τ' ἀπέκτειν', ὥσπερ ἄλγιστον θανεῖν,
παίδων ὑπ' αὐτοῦ, πάντα δ' ἐξείλον φόβον.
καὶ ταῦθ' ὑφ' ἡμῶν, ὦ κάκιστ' ἀνδρῶν, παθῶν
προὔδωκας ἡμᾶς, καινὰ δ' ἐκτήσω λέχη,
παίδων γεγῶτων· εἰ γὰρ ἦσθ' ἄπαις ἔτι, 490

συγγνώστ' ἂν ἦν σοι τοῦδ' ἐρασθῆναι λέχους.
ὄρκων δὲ φρούδη πίστις, οὐδ' ἔχω μαθεῖν
εἰ θεοὺς νομίζεις τοὺς τότε οὐκ ἄρχειν ἔτι,

- ἢ καινὰ κείσθαι θέσμ' ἐν ἀνθρώποις τανῦν,
 ἐπεὶ ξύνουισθά γ' εἰς ἔμ' οὐκ εὖορκος ὦν. 495
 φεῦ δεξιὰ χεῖρ, ἧς σὺ πόλλ' ἐλαμβάνου
 καὶ τῶνδε γονάτων, ὡς μάτην κεχρώσμεθα
 κακοῦ πρὸς ἀνδρὸς, ἐλπίδων δ' ἡμάρτομεν.
 ἄγ', ὡς φίλῳ γὰρ ὄντι σοι κοινώσομαι,
 δοκοῦσα μὲν τί πρὸς γε σοῦ πράξειν καλῶς; 500
 ὁμως δ' ἐρωτηθεῖς γὰρ αἰσχίῳ φανεῖ.
 νῦν ποῖ τράπωμαι; πότερα πρὸς πατρὸς δόμους,
 οὓς σοὶ προδοῦσα καὶ πάτραν ἀφικόμην;
 ἢ πρὸς ταλαίνας Πελοπείδας; καλῶς γ' ἂν οὖν
 δέξαιντό μ' οἴκοις ὧν πατέρα κατέκτανον. 505
 ἔχει γὰρ οὕτω τοῖς μὲν οἴκοθεν φίλοις
 ἐχθρὰ καθέστηχ', οὓς δέ μ' οὐκ ἐχρῆν κακῶς
 δρᾶν, σοὶ χάριν φέρουσα πολεμίους ἔχω.
 τοιγάρ με πολλαῖς μακαρίαν Ἑλληνίδων
 ἔθηκας ἀντὶ τῶνδε· θαυμαστὸν δέ σε 510
 ἔχω πόσιν κᾶπιστον—ἢ τάλαιν' ἐγὼ—
 εἰ φεύξομαί γε γαῖαν ἐκβεβλημένη,
 φίλων ἔρημος, ξὺν τέκνοις μόνῃ μόνους,
 καλόν γ' ὄνειδος τῷ νεωστὶ νυμφίῳ,
 πτωχοὺς ἀλαῖσθαι παῖδας ἢ τ' ἔσωσά σε. 515
 ὦ Ζεῦ, τί δὴ χρυσοῦ μὲν ὅς κίβδηλος ἦ
 τεκμήρι' ἀνθρώποισιν ὥπασας σαφῆ,
 ἀνδρῶν δ' ὄτῳ χρῆ τὸν κακὸν διειδέναί,
 οὐδεὶς χαρακτήρ ἐμπέφυκε σώματι;
- ΧΟ. δεινὴ τις ὄργη καὶ δυσίατος πέλει, 520
 ὅταν φίλοι φίλοισι συμβάλωσ' ἔριν.
- ΙΑ. δεῖ μ', ὡς ἔοικε, μὴ κακὸν φῦναι λέγειν,
 ἀλλ' ὥστε ναὸς κεδνὸν οἰακοστρόφον
 ἄκροισι λαίφους κρασπέδοις ὑπεκδραμεῖν
 τὴν σὴν στόμαργον, ὦ γύναι, γλωσσαλγίαν. 525

ἐγὼ δ', ἐπειδὴ καὶ λίαν πυργοῖς χάριν,
 Κύπριν νομίζω τῆς ἐμῆς ναυκληρίας
 σώτειραν εἶναι θεῶν τε κἀνθρώπων μόνην.
 σοὶ δ' ἔστι μὲν νοῦς λεπτός—ἀλλ' ἐπίφθονος
 λόγος διελθεῖν, ὡς Ἔρωσ σ' ἠνάγκασε 530
 τόξοις ἀφύκτοις τοῦμόν ἐκσῶσαι δέμας.
 ἀλλ' οὐκ ἀκριβῶς αὐτὸ θήσομαι λίαν·
 ὅπη γὰρ οὖν ὦνησας, οὐ κακῶς ἔχει.
 μείζω γε μέντοι τῆς ἐμῆς σωτηρίας
 εἴληφας ἢ δέδωκας, ὡς ἐγὼ φράσω. 535
 πρῶτον μὲν Ἑλλάδ' ἀντὶ βαρβάρου χθονὸς
 γαῖαν κατοικεῖς, καὶ δίκην ἐπίστασαι
 νόμοις τε χρῆσθαι, μὴ πρὸς ἰσχύος χάριν·
 πάντες δέ σ' ἦσθοντ' οὔσαν Ἕλληνες σοφήν,
 καὶ δόξαν ἔσχεσ· εἰ δὲ γῆς ἐπ' ἔσχατοις 540
 ὄροισιν ᾤκεις, οὐκ ἂν ἦν λόγος σέθεν.
 εἴη δ' ἔμοιγε μήτε χρυσὸς ἐν δόμοις
 μήτ' Ὀρφέως κάλλιον ὑμνήσαι μέλος,
 εἰ μὴ ἴσημος ἢ τύχη γένοιτό μοι.
 τοσαῦτα μὲν σοι τῶν ἐμῶν πόνων πέρι 545
 ἔλεξ· ἄμιλλαν γὰρ σὺ προὔθηκας λόγων.
 ἂ δ' ἐς γάμους μοι βασιλικοὺς ὠνείδισας,
 ἐν τῷδε δείξω πρῶτα μὲν σοφὸς γεγώς,
 ἔπειτα σῶφρων, εἶτα σοὶ μέγας φίλος
 καὶ παισὶ τοῖς ἐμοῖσιν—ἀλλ' ἔχ' ἦσυχος. 550
 ἐπεὶ μετέστην δευρ' Ἰωλκίας χθονὸς
 πολλὰς ἐφέλκων ξυμφορὰς ἀμηχάνους,
 τί τοῦδ' ἂν εὐρημ' ἤῤυρον εὐτυχέστερον
 ἢ παῖδα γῆμαι βασιλέως φυγὰς γεγώς;
 οὐχ, ἦ σὺ κνίξει, σὸν μὲν ἐχθαίρων λέχος 555
 καινῆς δὲ νύμφης ἡμέρω πεπληγμένος,
 οὐδ' εἰς ἄμιλλαν πολύτεκνον σπουδὴν ἔχων—

- ἄλις γὰρ οἱ γεγῶτες, οὐδὲ μέμφομαι—
 ἀλλ' ὡς, τὸ μὲν μέγιστον, οἰκοῦμεν καλῶς,
 καὶ μὴ σπανιζοίμεσθα, γιγνώσκων ὅτι 560
 πένητα φεύγει πᾶς τις ἐκποδῶν φίλος,
 παῖδας δὲ θρέψαιμ' ἀξίως δόμων ἐμῶν,
 σπείρας τ' ἀδελφούς τοῖσιν ἐκ σέθεν τέκνοις
 ἐς ταυτὸ θείην, καὶ ξυναρτήσας γένος
 εὐδαιμονοῦμεν. σοί τε γὰρ παίδων τί δεῖ; 565
 ἐμοί τε λύει τοῖσι μέλλουσιν τέκνοις
 τὰ ζῶντ' ὀνήσαι. μῶν βεβούλευμαι κακῶς;
 οὐδ' ἂν σὺ φαίης, εἴ σε μὴ κνίζοι λέχος.
 ἀλλ' ἐς τοσοῦτον ἦκεθ' ὥστ' ὀρθομένης
 εὐνῆς γυναικες πάντ' ἔχειν νομίζετε, 570
 ἣν δ' αὖ γένηται ξυμφορά τις ἐς λέχος,
 τὰ λῶστα καὶ κάλλιστα πολεμιώτατα
 τίθεσθε. χρῆν γὰρ ἄλλοθεν ποθεν βροτοῦς
 παῖδας τεκνοῦσθαι, θῆλυ δ' οὐκ εἶναι γένος·
 χούτως ἂν οὐκ ἦν οὐδὲν ἀνθρώποις κακόν. 575
- ΧΟ. Ἰᾶσον, εὖ μὲν τούσδ' ἐκόσμησας λόγους·
 ὅμως δ' ἔμοιγε, κεῖ παρά γνώμην ἐρῶ,
 δοκεῖς προδοὺς σὴν ἄλοχον οὐ δίκαια δρᾶν.
- ΜΗ. ἦ πολλὰ πολλοῖς εἰμι διάφορος βροτῶν.
 ἐμοὶ γὰρ ὅστις ἄδικος ὦν σοφὸς λέγειν 580
 πέφυκε, πλείστην ζημίαν ὀφλισκάνει·
 γλώσση γὰρ αὐχῶν τᾶδικ' εὖ περιστελεῖν,
 τολμᾶ πανουργεῖν· ἔστι δ' οὐκ ἄγαν σοφός.
 ὡς καὶ σύ· μὴ νυν εἰς ἔμ' εὐσχήμεων γένη
 λέγειν τε δεινός· ἐν γὰρ ἐκτενεῖ σ' ἔπος. 585
 χρῆν σ', εἴπερ ἦσθα μὴ κακός, πείσαντά με
 γαμεῖν γάμον τόνδ', ἀλλὰ μὴ σιγῇ φίλων.
- ΙΑ. καλῶς γ' ἂν, οἶμαι, τῷδ' ὑπηρέτεις λόγῳ,
 εἴ σοι γάμον κατεύπον, ἦτις οὐδὲ νῦν

- τολμᾶς μεθεΐναι καρδίας μέγαν χόλον. 590
- ΜΗ. οὐ τοῦτό σ' εἶχεν, ἀλλὰ βάρβαρον λέχος
πρὸς γῆρας οὐκ εὐδοξον ἐξέβαινέ σοι.
- ΙΑ. εὖ νυν τόδ' ἴσθι, μὴ γυναικὸς οὐνεκα
γῆμαί με λέκτρα βασιλέων, ἃ νῦν ἔχω,
ἀλλ', ὥσπερ εἶπον καὶ πάρος, σῶσαι θέλων 595
σὲ καὶ τέκνοισι τοῖς ἐμοῖς ὁμοσπόρους
φῦσαι τυράννους παῖδας, ἔρυμα δώμασιν.
- ΜΗ. μή μοι γένοιτο λυπρὸς εὐδαίμων βίος,
μηδ' ὄλβος ὅστις τὴν ἐμὴν κνίξοι φρένα.
- ΙΑ. οἷσθ' ὡς μέτευξαι καὶ σοφωτέρα φανεῖ; 600
τὰ χρηστὰ μὴ σοι λυπρὰ φαινέσθω ποτέ.
μηδ' εὐτυχούσα δυστυχῆς εἶναι δόκει.
- ΜΗ. ὑβρίζ', ἐπειδὴ σοὶ μὲν ἔστ' ἀποστροφῆ,
ἐγὼ δ' ἔρημος τήνδε φευξοῦμαι χθόνα.
- ΙΑ. αὐτὴ τάδ' εἶλον· μηδέν' ἄλλον αἰτιῶ. 605
- ΜΗ. τί δρῶσα, μῶν γαμοῦσα καὶ προδοῦσά σε;
- ΙΑ. ἀρὰς τυράννοις ἀνοσίους ἀρωμένη.
- ΜΗ. καὶ σοῖς ἀραία γ' οὔσα τυγχάνω δόμοις.
- ΙΑ. ὡς οὐ κρινοῦμαι τῶνδέ σοι τὰ πλείονα.
ἀλλ' εἴ τι βούλει παισὶν ἢ σαυτῆς φυγῆ 610
προσωφέλημα χρημάτων ἐμῶν λαβεῖν,
λέγ'· ὡς ἔτοιμος ἀφθόνῳ δοῦναι χερὶ,
ξένοις τε πέμπειν ξύμβολ', οἱ δρᾶσουσί σ' εὔ.
καὶ ταῦτα μὴ θέλουσα μωρανεῖς, γύναι·
λήξασα δ' ὀργῆς κερδανεῖς ἀμείνονα. 615
- ΜΗ. οὔτ' ἂν ξένοισι τοῖσι σοῖς χρησαίμεθ' ἂν,
οὔτ' ἂν τι δεξαίμεσθα, μηδ' ἡμῖν δίδου·
κακοῦ γὰρ ἀνδρὸς δῶρ' ὄνησιν οὐκ ἔχει.
- ΙΑ. ἀλλ' οὖν ἐγὼ μὲν δαίμονας μαρτύρομαι,
ὡς πάνθ' ὑπουργεῖν σοὶ τε καὶ τέκνοις θέλω· 620
σοὶ δ' οὐκ ἀρέσκει τὰγάθ', ἀλλ' αὐθαδία

φίλους ἀπωθεῖ· τοιγὰρ ἀλγυνεῖ πλέον.

ΜΗ. χάρει· πόθῳ γὰρ τῆς νεοδμήτου κόρης
αἰρεῖ, χρονίζων δωμαίων ἐξώπιος·
νύμφευ· ἴσως γὰρ, ξὺν θεῷ δ' εἰρήσεται, 625
γαμέϊς τοιοῦτον ὥστε σ' ἀρνεῖσθαι γάμον.

ΧΟ. ἔρωτες ὑπὲρ μὲν ἄγαν ἐλθόντες οὐκ εὐδοξίαν στρ. α'.
οὐδ' ἀρετὰν παρέδωκαν ἀνδράσιν· εἰ δ' ἄλις ἔλθοι 630
Κύπρις, οὐκ ἄλλα θεὸς εὐχαρις οὕτω.
μήποτ', ὦ δέσποιν', ἐπ' ἐμοὶ χρυσέων τόξων ἐφείης
ἡμέρω χρίσασ' ἄφυκτον οἰστόν.

στέγοι δέ με σωφροσύνα, ἀντ. α'.
δῶρημα κάλλιστον θεῶν 636

μηδέ ποτ' ἀμφιλόγους ὄργας ἀκόρεστά τε νείκη
θυμὸν ἐκπλήξασ' ἐτέροις ἐπὶ λέκτροις
προσβάλοι δεινὰ Κύπρις, ἀπτολέμους δ' εὐνὰς σε-
βίζουσ' 641

ὀξύφρων κρίνοι λέχη γυναικῶν.
ὦ πατρὶς, ὦ δῶματα μὴ στρ. β'.
δῆτ' ἄπολις γενοίμαν
τὸν ἀμαχανίας ἔχουσα δυσπέρατον αἰῶν' 646
οἰκτρότατον ἀχέων.

θανάτῳ θανάτῳ πάρος δαμείην
ἀμέραν τάνδ' ἐξανύσασα μόχθων δ' οὐκ ἄλλος ὑπερ-
θεν ἢ γὰς πατρίας στέρεσθαι. 652

εἶδομεν, οὐκ ἐξ ἐτέρων ἀντ. β'.
μῦθον ἔχω φράσασθαι· 654

σὲ γὰρ οὐ πόλις, οὐ φίλων τις ᾧ κτεῖρεν παθοῦσαν
δεινότατα παθέων.

ἀχάριστος ὄλοιθ' ὄτῳ πάρεστι
μὴ φίλους τιμᾶν, καθαρὰν ἀνοίξαντα κληῖδα φρενῶν·
ἐμοὶ μὲν φίλος οὐποτ' ἔσται 662

ΑΙΓΕΤΣ.

- Μήδεια, χαίρε· τοῦδε γὰρ προοίμιον
 κάλλιον οὐδεὶς οἶδε προσφωνεῖν φίλους.
- ΜΗ. ὦ χαίρε καὶ σὺ, παῖ σοφοῦ Πανδίωνος, 665
 Αἰγεῦ. πόθεν γῆς τῆσδ' ἐπιστροφῆ πέδον;
- ΑΙ. Φοίβου παλαιὸν ἐκλιπὼν χρηστήριον.
- ΜΗ. τί δ' ὀμφαλὸν γῆς θεσπιωδὸν ἐστάλης;
- ΑΙ. παίδων ἐρευνῶν σπέρμ' ὅπως γένοιτό μοι.
- ΜΗ. πρὸς θεῶν, ἅπαις γὰρ δεῦρ' αἰεὶ τείνεις βίον; 670
- ΑΙ. ἅπαιδές ἐσμεν δαίμονός τινος τύχη·
- ΜΗ. δάμαρτος οὔσης, ἣ λέχους ἄπειρος ὦν;
- ΑΙ. οὐκ ἐσμὲν εὐνής ἄζυγες γαμηλίον.
- ΜΗ. τί δῆτα Φοῖβος εἰπέ σοι παίδων πέρι;
- ΑΙ. σοφώτερ' ἢ κατ' ἄνδρα συμβαλεῖν ἔπη. 675
- ΜΗ. θέμις μὲν ἡμᾶς χρησμὸν εἰδέναι θεοῦ;
- ΑΙ. μάλιστ', ἐπεὶ τοι καὶ σοφῆς δεῖται φρενός.
- ΜΗ. τί δῆτ' ἔχρησε; λέξον, εἰ θέμις κλίειν.
- ΑΙ. ἀσκοῦ με τὸν προὔχοντα μὴ λῦσαι πόδα.
- ΜΗ. πρὶν ἂν τί δράσης ἢ τίν' ἐξίκη χθόνα; 680
- ΑΙ. πρὶν ἂν πατρώαν αὐθις ἐστίαν μόλω.
- ΜΗ. σὺ δ' ὡς τί χρήζων τήνδε ναυστολεῖς χθόνα;
- ΑΙ. Πιπθεὺς τις ἔστι γῆς ἀναξ Τροιζηνίας.
- ΜΗ. παῖς, ὡς λέγουσι, Πέλοπος εὐσεβέστατος.
- ΑΙ. τούτῳ θεοῦ μάντευμα κοινῶσαι θέλω. 685
- ΜΗ. σοφὸς γὰρ ἀνὴρ καὶ τρίβων τὰ τοιάδε.
- ΑΙ. κάμοιγε πάντων φίλτατος δορυξένων.
- ΜΗ. ἀλλ' εὐτυχοίης, καὶ τύχοις ὅσων ἐράς.
- ΑΙ. τί γὰρ σὸν ὄμμα χρώς τε συντέτηχ' ὅδε;
- ΜΗ. Αἰγεῦ, κάκιστος ἔστι μοι πάντων πόσις. 690
- ΑΙ. τί φῆς; σαφῶς μοι σὰς φράσον δυσθυμίας.
- ΜΗ. ἀδικεῖ μ' Ἰάσων οὐδὲν ἐξ ἐμοῦ παθῶν.
- ΑΙ. τί χρῆμα δράσας; φράζε μοι σαφέστερον.

- ΜΗ. γυναικ' ἐφ' ἡμῖν δεσπότην δόμων ἔχει.
- ΑΙ. μή που τετόλμηκ' ἔργον αἰσχιστον τόδε; 695
- ΜΗ. σάφ' ἴσθ'· ἄτιμοι δ' ἐσμὲν οἱ πρὸ τοῦ φίλοι.
- ΑΙ. πότερον ἐρασθεῖς ἢ σὸν ἐχθαίρων λέχος;
- ΜΗ. μέγαν γ' ἔρωτα—πιστὸς οὐκ ἔφην φίλοις;—
- ΑΙ. ἴτω νυν· εἴπερ ὡς λέγεις ἐστὶν κακός,—
- ΜΗ. —ἀνδρῶν τυράννων κῆδος ἠράσθη λαβεῖν. 700
- ΑΙ. —δίδωσι δ' αὐτῷ τίς; πέρανέ μοι λόγον.
- ΜΗ. Κρέων, ὅς ἄρχει τῆσδε γῆς Κορινθίας.
- ΑΙ. ξυγγνωστ' ἄγαν ἄρ' ἦν σε λυπεῖσθαι, γύναι.
- ΜΗ. ὄλωλα· καὶ πρὸς γ' ἐξελαύνομαι χθονός.
- ΑΙ. πρὸς τοῦ; τόδ' ἄλλου καινὸν αὖ λέγεις κακόν. 705
- ΜΗ. Κρέων μ' ἐλαύνει φυγάδα γῆς Κορινθίας.
- ΑΙ. ἐὰ δ' Ἰάσων; οὐδὲ ταῦτ' ἐπήνεσα.
- ΜΗ. λόγῳ μὲν οὐχί, καρτερεῖν δὲ βούλεται.
ἀλλ' ἄντομαί σε τῆσδε πρὸς γενειάδος
γονάτων τε τῶν σῶν, ἱκεσία τε γίγνομαι, 710
οἴκτειρον οἴκτειρόν με τὴν δυσδαίμονα,
καὶ μή μ' ἔρημον ἐκπεσοῦσαν εἰσίδης,
δέξαι δὲ χώρα καὶ δόμοις ἐφέστιον.
οὕτως ἔρωσ σοὶ πρὸς θεῶν τελεσφόρος
γένοιτο παίδων, καὐτὸς ὄλβιος θάνοις. 715
εὐρημα δ' οὐκ οἶσθ' οἶον εὐρηκας τόδε·
παύσω δέ σ' ὄντ' ἄπαιδα, καὶ παίδων γονὰς
σπεῖραί σε θήσω· τοιάδ' οἶδα φάρμακα.
- ΑΙ. πολλῶν ἕκατι τήνδε σοι δοῦναι χάριν,
γύναι, πρόθυμός εἰμι, πρῶτα μὲν θεῶν, 720
ἔπειτα παίδων ὧν ἐπαγγέλλει γονάς.
ἐς τοῦτο γὰρ δὴ φροῦδός εἰμι πᾶς ἐγώ.
οὕτω δ' ἔχει μοι· σοῦ μὲν ἐλθούσης χθόια,
πειράσομαί σου προξενεῖν δίκαιος ὦν.
τοσόνδε μέντοι σοι προσημαίνω, γύναι· 725

- ἐκ τῆσδε μὲν γῆς οὐ σ' ἄγειν βουλήσομαι,
 αὐτῇ δ' εἰάνπερ εἰς ἔμοὺς ἔλθῃς δόμους,
 μενεῖς ἄσυλος, κοῦ σε μὴ μεθῶ τι.
 ἐκ τῆσδε δ' αὐτῇ γῆς ἀπαλλάσσοι πόδα·
 ἀναίτιος γὰρ καὶ ξένους εἶναι θέλω. 730
- ΜΗ. ἔσται τάδ'· ἀλλὰ πίστις εἰ γένοιτό μοι
 τούτων, ἔχοιμ' ἂν πάντα πρὸς σέθεν καλῶς.
- ΑΙ. μῶν οὐ πέποιθας; ἢ τί σοι τὸ δυσχερές;
- ΜΗ. πέποιθα· Πελίου δ' ἐχθρός ἐστι μοι δόμος
 Κρέων τε. τούτοις δ' ὀρκίοισι μὲν ζυγεῖς 735
 ἄγουσιν οὐ μεθεῖς ἂν ἐκ γαίας ἐμὲ,
 λόγοις δὲ συμβὰς καὶ θεῶν ἀνώμοτος
 φίλος γένοι' ἂν κἀπικηρυκεύμασι
 τάχ' ἂν πίθοιο· τὰμὰ μὲν γὰρ ἀσθενῆ,
 τοῖς δ' ὄλβος ἐστὶ καὶ δόμος τυραννικός. 740
- ΑΙ. πολλὴν ἔλεξας ἐν λόγοις προμηθίαν·
 ἀλλ' εἰ δοκεῖ σοι δρᾶν τάδ', οὐκ ἀφίσταμαι.
 ἐμοί τε γὰρ τάδ' ἐστὶν ἀσφαλέστατα,
 σκῆψίν τιν' ἐχθροῖς σοῖς ἔχοντα δεικνύναι,
 τὸ σόν τ' ἄραρε μᾶλλον· ἐξηγοῦ θεούς. 745
- ΜΗ. ὄμνυ πέδον Γῆς πατέρα θ' Ἥλιον πατρὸς
 τοῦμοῦ θεῶν τε συντιθεῖς ἅπαν γένος.
- ΑΙ. τί χρῆμα δράσειν ἢ τί μὴ δράσειν; λέγε.
- ΜΗ. μήτ' αὐτὸς ἐκ γῆς σῆς ἔμ' ἐκβαλεῖν ποτε
 μήτ', ἄλλος ἦν τις τῶν ἐμῶν ἐχθρῶν ἄγειν 750
 χρήζῃ, μεθήσειν ζῶν ἐκουσίῳ τρόπῳ.
- ΑΙ. ὄμνυμι Γαίας δάπεδον Ἥλιου τε φῶς
 θεούς τε πάντας ἐμμενεῖν ἅ σου κλύω.
- ΜΗ. ἀρκεῖ· τί δ' ὄρκῳ τῷδε μὴ ἠμμένων πάθοις;
- ΑΙ. ἂ τοῖσι δυσσεβοῦσι γίγνεται βροτῶν. 755
- ΜΗ. χαίρων πορεύου· πάντα γὰρ καλῶς ἔχει
 καγὼ πόλιν σὴν ὡς τάχιστ' ἀφίξομαι,

- πράξασ' ἄ μέλλω καὶ τυχοῦσ' ἄ βούλομαι.
 ΧΟ. ἀλλά σ' ὁ Μαΐας πομπαῖος ἄναξ
 πελάσειε δόμοις, ὧν τ' ἐπίνοϊαν 760
 σπεύδεις κατέχων πράξιαις, ἐπεὶ
 γενναῖος ἀνὴρ,
 Αἰγυῦ, παρ' ἐμοὶ δεδόκησαι.
- ΜΗ. ὦ Ζεῦ Δίκη τε Ζηνὸς Ἥλιου τε φῶς,
 νῦν καλλίνικοι τῶν ἐμῶν ἐχθρῶν, φίλαι, 765
 γενησόμεσθα, κείς ὁδὸν βεβήκαμεν·
 νῦν δ' ἐλπίς ἐχθροὺς τοὺς ἐμοὺς τίσειν δίκην.
 οὗτος γὰρ ἀνὴρ ἦ μάλιστ' ἐκάμνομεν
 λιμὴν πέφανται τῶν ἐμῶν βουλευμάτων·
 ἐκ τοῦδ' ἀναψόμεσθα πρυμνήτην κάλων, 770
 μολόντες ἄστυ καὶ πόλισμα Παλλάδος.
 ἦδη δὲ πάντα τὰμά σοι βουλευμάτα
 λέξω· δέχου δὲ μὴ πρὸς ἠδονὴν λόγους·
 πέμψασ' ἐμῶν τιν' οἰκετῶν Ἰάσονα
 εἰς ὄψιν ἔλθειν τὴν ἐμὴν αἰτήσομαι· 775
 μολόντι δ' αὐτῷ μαλθακοὺς λέξω λόγους,
 ὡς καὶ δοκεῖ μοι ταῦτα καὶ καλῶς ἔχει,
 [γάμους τυράννων οὓς προδοὺς ἡμᾶς ἔχει]
 καὶ ξύμφορ' εἶναι καὶ καλῶς ἐγνωσμένα·
 παῖδας δὲ μείναι τοὺς ἐμοὺς αἰτήσομαι, 780
 οὐχ ὡς λιποῦσ' ἂν πολεμίας ἐπὶ χθονός,
 [ἐχθροῖσι παῖδας τοὺς ἐμοὺς καθυβρίσαι]
 ἀλλ' ὡς δόλοισι παῖδα βασιλέως κτάνω.
 πέμψω γὰρ αὐτοὺς δῶρ' ἔχοντας ἐν χεροῖν,
 [νύμφη φέροντας τήνδε μὴ φεύγειν χθόνα.] 785
 λεπτόν τε πέπλον καὶ πλόκον χρυσήλατον·
 κᾶνπερ λαβοῦσα κόσμον ἀμφιθῆή χροῖ,
 κακῶς ὀλεῖται πᾶς θ' ὅς ἂν θίγη κόρης·
 τοιοῖσδε χρίσω φαρμάκοις δωρήματα.

- ἐνταῦθα μέντοι τόνδ' ἀπαλλάσσω λόγον· 790
 ὦμωξα δ' οἷον ἔργον ἔστ' ἐργαστέον
 τοῦντεῦθεν ἡμῖν· τέκνα γὰρ κατακτενῶ
 τὰμ'· οὔτις ἐστὶν ὅστις ἐξαιρήσεται·
 δόμον τε πάντα συγχέασ' Ἰάσονος
 ἔξειμι γαίας, φιλτάτων παίδων φόνον 795
 φεύγουσα καὶ τλαῶσ' ἔργον ἀνοσιώτατον.
 οὐ γὰρ γελαῶσθαι τλητὸν ἐξ ἐχθρῶν, φίλαι.
 ἴτω· τί μοι ζῆν κέρδος; οὔτε μοι πατρὶς
 οὔτ' οἰκός ἐστιν οὔτ' ἀποστροφή κακῶν.
 ἡμάρτανον τόθ' ἠνίκ' ἐξελίμπανον 800
 δόμους πατρώους, ἀνδρὸς Ἑλληνος λόγους
 πεισθείς, ὃς ἡμῖν ξὺν θεῷ τίσει δίκην.
 οὔτ' ἐξ ἔμοῦ γὰρ παιῶδας ὄψεται ποτε
 ζῶντας τὸ λοιπὸν οὔτε τῆς νεοζύγου
 νύμφης τεκνώσει παῖδ', ἐπεὶ κακὴν κακῶς 805
 θανεῖν σφ' ἀνάγκη τοῖς ἔμοῖσι φαρμάκοις.
 μηδεὶς με φαύλην κάσθην ἑνομιζέτω
 μηδ' ἠσυχαίαν, ἀλλὰ θατέρου τρόπου,
 βαρεῖαν ἐχθροῖς καὶ φίλοισιν εὐμενῇ·
 τῶν γὰρ τοιούτων εὐκλεέστατος βίος. 810
- ΧΟ. ἐπεὶ περ ἡμῖν τόνδ' ἐκοίνωσας λόγον,
 σέ τ' ὠφελεῖν θέλουσα καὶ νόμοις βροτῶν
 ξυλλαμβάνουσα, δρᾶν σ' ἀπεννέπω τάδε.
- ΜΗ. οὐκ ἔστιν ἄλλως· σοὶ δὲ συγγνώμη λέγειν
 τὰδ' ἐστὶ, μὴ πάσχουσαν ὡς ἐγὼ κακῶς. 815
- ΧΟ. ἀλλὰ κτανεῖν σὸν σπέρμα τολμήσεις, γύναι;
- ΜΗ. οὔτω γὰρ ἂν μάλιστα δηχθείη πόσις.
- ΧΟ. σὺ δ' ἂν γένοιό γ' ἀθλιωτάτη γυνή.
- ΜΗ. ἴτω· περισσοὶ πάντες οὖν μέσφ' λόγου.
 ἀλλ' εἶα χώρει καὶ κόμιζ' Ἰάσονα· 820
 ἐς πάντα γὰρ δὴ σοὶ τὰ πιστὰ χρώμεθα.

- λέξης δὲ μηδὲν τῶν ἐμοὶ δεδογμένων,
εἶπερ φρονεῖς εὖ δεσπότης γυνή τ' ἔφυσ.
- ΧΟ. Ἐρεχθεΐδαι τὸ παλαιὸν ὄλβιοι, στρ. α'.
καὶ θεῶν παῖδες μακάρων, ἱεράς 825
χώρας ἀπορθήτου τ' ἀπο—φερβόμενοι
κλεινοτάταν σοφίαν, αἰεὶ διὰ λαμπροτάτου
βαίνοντες ἀβρῶς αἰθέρος, ἔνθα ποθ' ἀγνὰς 830
ἐννέα Πιερίδας Μούσας λέγουσι
ξανθὰν Ἀρμονίαν φυτεύσαι—
τοῦ καλλιναίου τ' ἀπὸ Κηφισοῦ ῥοᾶς· ἀντ. α'.
τὰν Κύπριν κηΐζουσιν ἀφυσσαμέναν 836
χώραν καταπνεῦσαι μετρίας ἀνέμων
ἠδυπνόους αὔρας· αἰεὶ δ' ἐπιβαλλομέναν 840
χαίταισιν εὐώδη ῥοδέων πλόκον ἀνθέων
τῆ σοφία παρέδρους πέμπειν ἔρωτας,
παντοίας ἀρετᾶς ξυνέργους. 845
†πῶς οὖν ἱερῶν ποταμῶν στρ. β'.
ἢ πόλις ἢ φίλων
πόμπιμός σε χώρα
τὰν παιδολέτειραν ἔξει,
τὰν οὐχ ὅσιαν μετ' ἄλλων; 850
σκέψαι τεκέων πλαγὰν,
σκέψαι φόνον οἶον αἶρει.
μῆ, πρὸς γονάτων σε πάντως
πάντη θ' ἱκετεύομεν,
τέκνα φονεύσης. 855
πόθεν θράσος ἢ φρενὸς ἢ ἀντ. β'.
χειρὶ †τέκνων † σέθεν
καρδίαν τε λήψει
δεινὰν προσάγουσα τόλμαν;
πῶς δ' ὄμματα προσβαλοῦσα 860
τέκνοις ἄδακρυν μοῖραν

σχήσεις φόνου; οὐ δυνάσει,
 παίδων ἱκετᾶν πιτνόντων,
 τέγξαι χέρα φοινίαν
 τλάμονι θυμῷ.

865

ΙΑ. ἤκω κελευσθείς· καὶ γὰρ οὔσα δυσμενῆς
 οὐ κἂν ἀμάρτοις τοῦδέ γ', ἀλλ' ἀκούσομαι
 τί χρῆμα βούλει καινὸν ἐξ ἐμοῦ, γύναι.

ΜΗ. Ἰᾶσον, αἰτοῦμαί σε τῶν εἰρημένων
 συγγνώμον' εἶναι· τὰς δ' ἐμὰς ὀργὰς φέρειν 870
 εἰκός σ', ἐπεὶ νῶν πόλλ' ὑπείργασται φίλα.

ἐγὼ δ' εμαυτῇ διὰ λόγων ἀφικόμην,
 κάλοιδόρησα· σχετλία, τί μαίνομαι
 καὶ δυσμεναίνω τοῖσι βουλευουσιν εὔ,
 ἐχθρὰ δὲ γαίας κοιράνοις καθίσταμαι 875

πόσει θ', ὃς ἡμῖν δρᾶ τὰ συμφορώτατα,
 γήμας τύραννον καὶ κασιγνήτους τέκνοις
 ἐμοῖς φυτεύων; οὐκ ἀπαλλαχθήσομαι
 θυμοῦ—τί πάσχω;—θεῶν ποριζόντων καλῶς;
 οὐκ εἰσὶ μὲν μοι παῖδες, οἶδα δὲ χθόνα 880

φεύγοντας ἡμᾶς καὶ σπανίζοντας φίλων;
 ταῦτ' ἐννοηθεῖσ' ἠσθόμην ἀβουλίαν
 πολλὴν ἔχουσα καὶ μάτην θυμουμένη.
 νῦν οὖν ἐπαινῶ, σωφρονεῖν τέ μοι δοκεῖς
 κῆδος τόδ' ἡμῖν προσλαβῶν, ἐγὼ δ' ἄφρων, 885

ἢ χρῆν μετεῖναι τῶνδε τῶν βουλευμάτων
 καὶ ξυγαμεῖν σοι καὶ παρεστάναι λέχει,
 νύμφη τε κηδεύουσαν ἠδεσθαι σέθεν.
 ἀλλ' ἐσμὲν οἷόν ἐσμεν, οὐκ ἐρῶ κακὸν,
 γυναῖκες· οὐκουν χρῆ ἕξομοιοῦσθαι κακοῖς, 890
 οὐδ' ἀντιτείνειν, νῆπι ἀντὶ νηπίων.

παριέμεσθα, καὶ φαμεν κακῶς φρονεῖν
 τότ'· ἀλλ' ἄμεινον νῦν βεβούλευμαι τάδε.

- ὦ τεκνα τέκνα, δεῦτε, λείπετε στέγας,
 ἐξέλθετ', ἀσπάσασθε καὶ προσεΐπατε 895
 πατέρα μεθ' ἡμῶν, καὶ διαλλάχθηθ' ἅμα
 τῆς πρόσθεν ἔχθρας ἐς φίλους μητρὸς μέτα·
 σπονδαὶ γὰρ ἡμῖν, καὶ μεθέστηκεν χόλος.
 λάβεσθε χειρὸς δεξιᾶς. οἴμοι κακῶν
 ὡς ἐννοοῦμαι δῆ τι τῶν κεκρυμμένων. 900
 ἄρ', ὦ τέκν', οὕτω καὶ πολὺν ζῶντες χρόνον
 φίλην ὀρέετ' ὠλένην; τάλαιν' ἐγώ,
 ὡς ἀρτίδακρὺς εἰμι καὶ φόβου πλέα.
 χρόνῳ δὲ νεῖκος πατρὸς ἐξαιρουμένη
 ὄψιν τέρειναν τήνδ' ἐπλησα δακρῦων. 905
- ΧΟ. κάμοι κατ' ὄσσων χλωρὸν ὠρμήθη δάκρυ·
 καὶ μὴ προβαίη μείζον ἢ τὸ νῦν κακόν.
- ΙΑ. αἰνῶ, γύναι, τὰδ', οὐδ' ἐκέῖνα μέμφομαι·
 εἰκὸς γὰρ ὄργας θῆλυ ποιεῖσθαι γένος,
 γάμους παρεμπολῶντος ἀλλοίου, πόσει. † 910
 ἀλλ' ἐς τὸ λῶον σὸν μεθέστηκεν κέαρ,
 ἔγνωσ δὲ τὴν νικῶσαν ἀλλὰ τῷ χρόνῳ·
 [βουλήν, γυναικὸς ἔργα ταῦτα σῶφρονος]
 ὑμῶν δὲ, παῖδες, οὐκ ἀφροντίστως πατῆρ
 πολλὴν ἔθηκε σὺν θεοῖς σωτηρίαν· 915
 οἴμαι γὰρ ὑμᾶς τῆσδε γῆς Κορινθίας
 τὰ πρῶτ' ἔσεσθαι ξὺν κασιγνήτοις ἔτι.
 ἀλλ' αὐξάνεσθε· τᾶλλα δ' ἐξεργάζεται
 πατῆρ τε καὶ θεῶν ὅστις ἐστὶν εὐμενής.
 ἴδομι δ' ὑμᾶς εὐτραφεῖς ἠβῆς τέλος 920
 μολόντας, ἐχθρῶν τῶν ἐμῶν ὑπερτέρους.
 αὕτη, τί χλωροῖς δακρῦοῖς τέγγεις κόρας,
 στρέψασα λευκὴν ἔμπαλιν παρηίδα,
 κοῦκ ἀσμένη τόνδ' ἐξ ἐμοῦ δέχει λόγον;
- ΜΗ. οὐδέν· τέκνων τῶνδ' ἐννοουμένη πέρι. 925

- ΙΑ. τί δὴ, τάλαινα, τοῖσδ' ἐπιστένεις τέκνοις; 929
- ΜΗ. ἔτικτον αὐτούς· ζῆν δ' ὄτ' ἐξήχου τέκνα, 930
εἰσηλθέ μ' οἶκτος εἰ γενήσεται τάδε.
- ΙΑ. θάρσει νυν· εὖ γὰρ τῶνδ' ἐγὼ θήσω πέρι. 926
- ΜΗ. δράσω τάδ'· οὗτοι σοῖς ἀπιστήσω λόγοις·
γυνή δὲ θῆλυ, καπὶ δακρύοις ἔφνυ. 928
ἀλλ' ὦνπερ οὐνεκ' εἰς ἐμοὺς ἤκεις λόγους, 932
τὰ μὲν λέλεκται, τῶν δ' ἐγὼ μνησθήσομαι.
ἐπεὶ τυράννοις γῆς μ' ἀποστεῖλαι δοκεῖ,
καμοὶ τάδ' ἐστὶ λῶστα, γιγνώσκω καλῶς, 935
μήτ' ἐμποδῶν σοὶ μήτε κοιράνοις χθονὸς
ναίειν, δοκῶ γὰρ δυσμενῆς εἶναι δόμοις,
ἡμεῖς μὲν ἐκ γῆς τῆσδ' ἀπαίρομεν φυγῆ,
παῖδες δ' ὅπως ἂν ἐκτραφῶσι σῆ χειρὶ,
αἰτοῦ Κρέοντα τήνδε μὴ φεύγειν χθόνα. 940
- ΙΑ. οὐκ οἶδ' ἂν εἰ πείσαιμι, πειράσθαι δὲ χρῆ. 941
- ΜΗ. σὺ δ' ἀλλὰ σὴν κέλευσον αἰτεῖσθαι πάρος—
[γυναῖκα παῖδας τήνδε μὴ φεύγειν χθόνα]
- ΙΑ. μάλιστα, καὶ πείσειν γε δοξάζω σφ' ἐγώ.
- ΜΗ. εἴπερ γυναικῶν ἐστὶ τῶν ἄλλων μία. 945
ξυλλήψομαι δὲ τοῦδέ σοι καγὼ πόνον·
πέμψω γὰρ αὐτῇ δῶρ', ἃ καλλιστεύεται
τῶν νῦν ἐν ἀνθρώποισιν, οἶδ' ἐγὼ, πολὺ,
[λεπτὸν τε πέπλον καὶ πλόκον χρυσήλατον]
παῖδας φέροντας. ἀλλ' ὅσον τάχος χρεῶν 950
κόσμον κομίζειν δεῦρο προσπόλων τινά.
εὐδαιμονήσει δ' οὐχ ἓν, ἀλλὰ μυρία,
ἀνδρός τ' ἀρίστου σοῦ τυχοῦσ' ὀμεινέντου,
κεκτημένη τε κόσμον ὄν ποθ' Ἥλιος
πατρός πατὴρ δίδωσιν ἐκγόνοισιν οἷς. 955
λάζυσθε φερνάς τάσδε, παῖδες, ἐς χέρας,
καὶ τῆ τυράννω μακαρία νύμφη δότε

- ὄντες· οὔτοι δῶρα μεμπτὰ δέξεται.
 ... * ματαία, τῶνδε σὰς κενοῖς χέρας;
 δοκῶσπτανίζειν δῶμα βασιλῆιον πέπλων, 960
 δοκεῖς δὲ χρυσοῦ; σῶζε, μὴ δίδου, τάδε.
 εἴπερ γὰρ ἡμᾶς ἀξιοὶ λόγου τινὸς
 γυνή, προθήσει χρημάτων, σάφ' οἶδ' ἐγώ.
 ΜΗ. μὴ μοι σὺ· πείθειν δῶρα καὶ θεοὺς λόγος·
 χρυσὸς δὲ κρείσσων μυρίων λόγων βροτοῖς. 965
 κείνης ὁ δαίμων, κείνα νῦν αὖξει θεός,
 νέα τυραννεῖ· τῶν δ' ἐμῶν παίδων φυγὰς
 ψυχῆς ἂν ἀλλαξαίμεθ', οὐ χρυσοῦ μόνον.
 ἀλλ', ὦ τέκν', εἰσελθόντε πλησίους δόμους
 πατρὸς νέαν γυναῖκα, δεσπότην δ' ἐμὴν, 970
 ἱκετεύετ', ἐξαιτείσθε μὴ φεύγειν χθόνα,
 κόσμον διδόντες· τοῦδε γὰρ μάλιστα δεῖ,
 ἐς χεῖρ' ἐκείνην δῶρα δέξασθαι τάδε.
 ἴθ' ὡς τάχιστα· μητρὶ δ' ὦν ἐρᾷ τυχεῖν
 εὐάγγελοι γένοισθε πράξαντες καλῶς. 975
 ΧΟ. νῦν ἐλπίδες οὐκέτι μοι παίδων ζῴας, στρ. α'.
 οὐκέτι· στείχουσι γὰρ ἐς φόνον ἤδη.
 δέξεται νύμφα χρυσέων ἀναδεδυμένων
 δέξεται δῦστανος ἄταν· 979
 ξανθᾷ δ' ἀμφὶ κόμα θήσει τὸν Ἄϊδα
 κόσμον αὐτὰ χεροῖν·
 πείσει χάρις ἀμβροσίου τ' αὐγὰ πέπλου ἀντ. α'.
 χρυσοτεύκτου τε στεφάνου περιθέσθαι·
 νερτέροις δ' ἤδη πάρα νυμφοκομήσει· 985
 τοῖον εἰς ἔρκος πεσεῖται
 καὶ μοῖραν θανάτου δῦστανος· ἄταν δ'
 οὐχ ὑπεκφεύξεται. στρ. β'. 989
 σὺ δ', ὦ τάλαν, ὦ κακόνυμφε κηδεμῶν τυράννων,
 παισὶν οὐ κατειδῶς

ὄλεθρον βιοτᾶ προσάγεις, ἀλόχῳ τε σᾶ στυγερόν
θάνατον.

δύστανε, μοίρας ὅσον παροίχει. ἀντ. β'. 995
μεταστένομαι δὲ σὸν ἄλγος, ὦ τάλαινα παίδων
μᾶτερ, ἃ φονεύσεις
τέκνα νυμφιδίων ἔνεκεν λεχέων, ἃ σοι προλιπὼν
ἀνόμως 1000

ἄλλα ξυνοικεῖ πόσις ξυνεύῳ.

ΠΑ. δέσποιν', ἀφείνται παῖδες οἶδε σοὶ φυγῆς,
καὶ δῶρα νύμφη βασιλῆς ἀσμένη χεροῖν
ἐδέξατ'· εἰρήνη δὲ τὰ κεῖθεν τέκνοις.

ΜΗ. ἔα.

ΠΑ. τί συγχυθεῖς ἔστηκας ἠνίκ' εὐτυχεῖς, 1005
[τί σὴν ἔστρεψας ἔμπαλιν παρηίδα]
κοῦκ ἀσμένη τόνδ' ἐξ ἐμοῦ δέχει λόγον;

ΜΗ. αἰαί.

ΠΑ. τὰδ' οὐ ξυνωδὰ τοῖσιν ἐξηγγελμένοις.

ΜΗ. αἰαί μάλ' αὐθις. ΠΑ. μῶν τιν' ἀγγέλλων τύχην
οὐκ οἶδα, δόξης δ' ἐσφάλην εὐαγγέλου; 1010

ΜΗ. ἤγγειλας οἶ ἤγγειλας· οὐ σὲ μέμφομαι.

ΠΑ. τί δὴ κατηφές ὄμμα καὶ δακρυρροεῖς;

ΜΗ. πολλή μ' ἀνάγκη, πρέσβυ· ταῦτα γὰρ θεοὶ
καγὼ κακῶς φρονούσ' ἐμηχανησάμην.

ΠΑ. θάρσει· κάτει τοι καὶ σὺ πρὸς τέκνων ἔτι. 1015

ΜΗ. ἄλλους κατὰξω πρόσθεν ἢ τάλαινα ἐγώ.

ΠΑ. οὗτοι μόνη σὺ σὼν ἀπεζύγης τέκνων.
κούφως φέρειν χρὴ θνητὸν ὄντα συμφοράς.

ΜΗ. δράσω τὰδ'· ἀλλὰ βαίνει δωμάτων ἔσω,
καὶ παισὶ πόρσυν' οἷα χρὴ καθ' ἡμέραν, 1020
ὦ τέκνα τέκνα, σφῶν μὲν ἔστι δὴ πόλις
καὶ δῶμ', ἐν ᾧ λιπόντες ἀθλίαν ἐμὲ
οἰκήσεται· αἰὲ μῆτρὸς ἐστερημένοι·

ἢ δ' ἐς ἄλλην γαίαν εἶμι δὴ φυγὰς,
 σφῶν ὄνασθαι κάπιδεῖν εὐδαίμονας, 1025
 πρὶν κλεῖρα καὶ γυναιῖκα καὶ γαμηλίους
 εὐνάς ἀγῆλαι λαμπάδας τ' ἀνασχεθεῖν.
 ὦ δυστάλαινα τῆς ἐμῆς ἀνθαδίας.
 ἄλλως ἄρ' ὑμᾶς, ὦ τέκν', ἐξεθρεψάμην,
 ἄλλως δ' ἐμόχθουν καὶ κατεξάνθην πόνοις, 1030
 στερρὰς ἐνεγκοῦσ' ἐν τόκοις ἀλγηδόνας.
 ἦ μὴν ποθ' ἦ δύστηνος εἶχον ἐλπίδας
 πολλὰς ἐν ὑμῖν γηροβοσκήσειν τ' ἐμὲ
 καὶ καθανοῦσαν χερσὶν εὖ περιστελεῖν,
 ζηλωτὸν ἀνθρώποισι· νῦν δ' ὄλωλε δὴ 1035
 γλυκεῖα φροντίς. σφῶν γὰρ ἐστερημένη
 λυπρὸν διάξω βίον ἀλγεινόν τ' ἐμοί.
 ὑμεῖς δὲ μητέρ' οὐκέτ' ὄμμασιν φίλοις
 ὄψεσθ', ἐς ἄλλο σχῆμ' ἀποστάντες βίου.
 φεῦ φεῦ· τί προσδέρκεσθέ μ' ὄμμασιν, τέκνα; 1040
 τί προσγελᾶτε τὸν πανύστατον γέλων;
 αἰαῖ· τί δράσω; καρδία γὰρ οἴχεται,
 γυναιῖκες, ὄμμα φαιδρὸν ὡς εἶδον τέκνων.
 οὐκ ἂν δυναίμην· χαιρέτω βουλευῆματα
 τὰ πρόσθεν· ἄξω παῖδας ἐκ γαίας ἐμούς. 1045
 τί δεῖ με πατέρα τῶνδε τοῖς τούτων κακοῖς
 λυποῦσαν αὐτὴν δις τόσα κτᾶσθαι κακά;
 οὐ δῆτ' ἔγωγε· χαιρέτω βουλευῆματα.
 καίτοι τί πάσχω; βούλομαι γέλωτ' ὀφλεῖν
 ἐχθροὺς μεθεῖσα τοὺς ἐμούς ἀζημίους; 1050
 τολμητέον τὰδ'. ἀλλὰ τῆς ἐμῆς κάκης,
 τὸ καὶ προσέσθαι μαλθακοὺς λόγους φρενί.
 χωρεῖτε, παῖδες, ἐς δόμους· ὄτῳ δὲ μὴ
 θέμις παρεῖναι τοῖς ἐμοῖσι θύμασιν,
 αὐτῷ μελήσει· χεῖρα δ' οὐ διαφθερῶ. 1055

ᾶ ᾶ.

μῆ δῆτα, θυμέ, μῆ σύ γ' ἐργάσῃ τάδε·
 ἕασον αὐτοὺς, ὦ τάλαν, φείσαι τέκνων·
 † ἐκεῖ μεθ' ἡμῶν ζῶντες εὐφρανοῦσί σε.
 μὰ τοὺς παρ' Αἰδη νερτέρους ἀλάστορας,
 οὗτοι ποτ' ἔσται τοῦθ' ὅπως ἐχθροῖς ἐγὼ 1060
 παῖδας παρήσω τοὺς ἐμοὺς καθυβρίσαι—

[πάντως σφ' ἀνάγκη κατθανεῖν· ἐπεὶ δὲ χρῆ,
 ἡμεῖς κτενοῦμεν, οἷπερ ἐξεφύσαμεν.]

πάντως πέπρακται ταῦτα, κοῦκ ἐκφεύξεται·
 καὶ δὴ 'πὶ κρατὶ στέφανος, ἐν πέπλοισί τε 1065
 νύμφη τύραννος ὄλλυται, σάφ' οἶδ' ἐγώ.
 ἀλλ' εἴμι γὰρ δὴ τλημονεστάτην ὁδόν,
 καὶ τούσδε πέμψω τλημονεστέραν ἔτι,
 παῖδας προσειπεῖν βούλομαι. δότ', ὦ τέκνα,
 δότ' ἀσπάσασθαι μητρὶ δεξιὰν χέρα. 1070

ὦ φίλτατῃ χεῖρ, φίλτατον δέ μοι στόμα,
 καὶ σχῆμα καὶ πρόσωπον εὐγενὲς τέκνων,
 εὐδαιμονοῖτον, ἀλλ' ἐκεῖ· τὰ δ' ἐνθάδε
 πατὴρ ἀφείλετ'. ὦ γλυκεῖα προσβολή,
 ὦ μαλθακὸς χρῶς πνεῦμά θ' ἠδιστον τέκνων. 1075
 χωρεῖτε χωρεῖτ'· οὐκέτ' εἴμι προσβλέπειν
 οἷα τ' ἔθ' ὑμᾶς, ἀλλὰ νικῶμαι κακοῖς.
 καὶ μανθάνω μὲν οἷα δρᾶν μέλλω κακά·
 θυμὸς δὲ κρείστων τῶν ἐμῶν βουλευμάτων,
 ὅσπερ μεγίστων αἴτιος κακῶν βροτοῖς. 1080

ΧΟ. πολλάκις ἤδη

διὰ λεπτοτέρων μύθων ἔμολον,
 καὶ πρὸς ἀμίλλας ἦλθον μείζους
 ἢ χρῆ γενεὰν θῆλυν ἐρευνᾶν·
 ἀλλὰ γὰρ ἔστιν μούσα καὶ ἡμῖν, 1085
 ἢ προσομιλεῖ σοφίας ἔνεκεν·

- πάσαισι μὲν οὐ· παῦρον δὲ—τί μή;—
γένος ἐν πολλαῖς εὖροις ἂν ἴσως,
κοῦκ ἀπόμουσον τὸ γυναικῶν.
καί φημι βροτῶν οὔτινές εἰσιν
1090 πάμπαν ἄπειροι μηδ' ἐφύτευσαν
παῖδας, προφέρειν εἰς εὐτυχίαν
τῶν γειναμένων.
οἱ μὲν ἄτεκνοι, δι' ἀπειροσύνην
εἴθ' ἠδὺ βροτοῖς εἴτ' ἀνιαρὸν
1095 παῖδες τελέθουσ' οὐχὶ τεκόντες,
πολλῶν μόχθων ἀπέχονται·
οἷσι δὲ τέκνων ἔστιν ἐν οἴκοις
γλυκερὸν βλάστημ', †ὄρω† μελέτη
κατατρυχομένους τὸν ἅπαντα χρόνον
1100 πρῶτον μὲν ὅπως θρέψουσι καλῶς,
βίότον θ' ὀπόθεν λείψουσι τέκνοις·
ἔτι δ' ἐκ τούτων εἴτ' ἐπὶ φλαύροις
εἴτ' ἐπὶ χρηστοῖς
μοχθοῦσι, τόδ' ἐστὶν ἄδηλον.
ἐν δὲ τὸ πάντων λούσθιον ἤδη
1105 πᾶσιν κατερῶ θνητοῖσι κακόν·
καὶ δὴ γὰρ ἄλις βίότον θ' ἤϋρον,
σῶμά τ' ἐς ἤβην ἤλυθε τέκνων,
χρηστοί τ' ἐγένοντ'· εἰ δὲ κυρήσαι
δαίμων οὗτος φροῦδος ἐς Ἄιδην
1110 Θάνατος προφέρων σώματα τέκνων†.
πῶς οὖν λύει πρὸς τοῖς ἄλλοις
τὴνδ' ἔτι λύπην ἀνιαροτάτην
παίδων ἔνεκεν
θνητοῖσι θεοὺς ἐπιβάλλειν;
1115
- ΜΗ. φίλαι, πάλαι δὴ προσμένουσα τὴν τύχην
καραδοκῶ τὰ κείθεν οἱ προβήσεται.

καὶ δὴ δέδορκα τόνδε τῶν Ἰάσονος
 στείχοντ' ὀπαδῶν· πνεῦμα δ' ἠρεθισμένον
 δείκνυσιν ὥς τι καινὸν ἀγγελεῖ κακόν. 1120

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

- ὦ δεινὸν ἔργον παράνομόν τ' εἰργασμένη
 Μήδεια, φεῦγε φεῦγε, μήτε ναῖαν
 λιποῦσ' ἀπήνην μήτ' ὄχον πεδοστιβῆ.
 ΜΗ. τί δ' αἰζίων μοι τῆσδε τυγχάνει φυγῆς;
 ΑΓ. ὄλωλεν ἡ τύραννος ἀρτίως κόρη 1125
 Κρέων θ' ὁ φύσας φαρμάκων τῶν σῶν ὕπο.
 ΜΗ. κάλλιστον εἶπας μῦθον, ἐν δ' εὐεργέταις
 τὸ λοιπὸν ἦδη καὶ φίλοις ἐμοῖς ἔσει.
 ΑΓ. τί φῆς; φρονεῖς μὲν ὀρθὰ κοῦ μαίνει, γύναι,
 ἦτις τυράννων ἐστίαν ἠκισμένην 1130
 χαίρεις κλύουσα κοῦ φοβεῖ τὰ τοιάδε;
 ΜΗ. ἔχω τι καγὼ τοῖσδε σοῖς ἐναντίον
 λόγοισιν εἰπεῖν· ἀλλὰ μὴ σπέρχου, φίλος,
 λέξον δ' ὅπως ὤλοντο· δις τόσον γὰρ ἂν
 τέρψειας ἡμᾶς, εἰ τεθνήσσι παγκάκως. 1135
 ΑΓ. ἐπεὶ τέκνων σῶν ἦλθε δίπτυχος γονῆ
 σὺν πατρὶ καὶ παρῆλθε νυμφικοὺς δόμους,
 ἦσθημεν οἷπερ σοῖς ἐκάμνομεν κακοῖς
 δμῶδες· δι' οἴκων δ' εὐθύς ἦν πολὺς λόγος
 σὲ καὶ πόσιν σὸν νεῖκος ἐσπεῖσθαι τὸ πρῖν. 1140
 κυνεῖ δ' ὁ μὲν τις χεῖρ', ὁ δὲ ξανθὸν κᾶρα
 παίδων· ἐγὼ δὲ καὐτὸς ἠδονῆς ὕπο
 στέγας γυναικῶν σὺν τέκνοις ἄμ' ἐσπόμην.
 δέσποινα δ' ἦν νῦν ἀντὶ σοῦ θαυμάζομεν,
 πρὶν μὲν τέκνων σῶν εἰσιδεῖν ξυνωρίδα, 1145
 πρόθυμον εἶχ' ὀφθαλμὸν εἰς Ἰάσονα·
 ἔπειτα μέντοι προῦκαλύψατ' ὄμματα,

ἡκὴν τ' ἀπέστρεψ' ἔμπαλιν παρηγίδα,
 ἡμισαχθείσ' εἰσόδους· πόσις δὲ σὸς
 ὄργῳ ἀφήρει καὶ χόλον νεάνιδος, 1150
 λέγων τάδ'· οὐ μὴ δυσμενῆς ἔσει φίλους,
 παύσει δὲ θυμοῦ καὶ πάλιν στρέψεις κέρα,
 φίλους νομίζουσ' οὔσπερ ἂν πόσις σέθεν,
 δέξει δὲ δῶρα, καὶ παραιτήσει πατρὸς
 φυγὰς ἀφείναι παισὶ τοῖσδ' ἐμὴν χάριν; 1155
 ἢ δ' ὡς ἔσειδε κόσμον, οὐκ ἠνέσχετο,
 ἀλλ' ἦνεσ' ἀνδρὶ πάντα· καὶ πρὶν ἐκ δόμων
 μακρὰν ἀπεῖλαι πατέρῃ καὶ τέκνα στάσιν,
 λαβούσα πέπλους ποικίλους ἠμπίσχετο,
 χρυσοῦν τε θέϊσθ' ἀστέφανον ἀμφὶ βοστρύχοις, 1160
 λαμπρῶ κατόπτρῳ σχηματίζεται κόμην,
 ἄψυχον εἰκὼ προσγελῶσα σώματος.
 κἄπειτ' ἀναστᾶσ' ἐκ θρόνων διέρχεται
 στέγας, ἀβρὸν βαίνουσα παλλεύκῳ ποδί,
 δώροις ὑπερχαίρουσα, πολλὰ πολλάκις 1165
 τένοντ' ἐς ὄρθον ὄμμασι σκοπουμένη.
 τοῦνθένδε μέντοι δεινὸν ἦν θέαμ' ἰδεῖν·
 χροιάν γὰρ ἀλλάξασα λεχρία πάλιν
 χωρεῖ τρέμουσα κῶλα, καὶ μόλις φθάνει
 θρόνοισιν ἐμπεσοῦσα μὴ χαμαὶ πεσεῖν. 1170
 καὶ τις γεραία προσπόλων, δόξασά που
 ἢ Πανὸς ὄργῳ ἢ τινὸς θεῶν μολεῖν,
 ἀνωλόλυξε, πρὶν γ' ὄρᾳ διὰ στόμα
 χωροῦντα λευκὸν ἀφρόν, ὀμμάτων τ' ἄνω
 κόρας στρέφουσαν, αἱμά τ' οὐκ ἐνὸν χροῖ· 1175
 εἶτ' ἀντίμολπον ἦκεν ὀλολυγῆς μέγαν
 κωκυτόν. εὐθὺς δ' ἢ μὲν ἐς πατρὸς δόμους
 ὤρμησεν, ἢ δὲ πρὸς τὸν ἀρτίως πόσιν,
 φράσουσα νύμφης συμφορᾶς· ἅπασα δὲ

στέγη πυκνοῖσιν ἐκτύπει δρομήμασιν. 1180
 ἤδη δ' ἀνέλκων κῶλον ἐκπλέθρου δρόμου
 ταχὺς βαδιστῆς τερμόνων ἂν ἦπτετο,
 ἦ δ' ἐξ ἀναύγου καὶ μύσαντος ὄμματος
 δεινὸν στενάξασ' ἠ΄ ἄλαιν' ἠγείρετο.
 διπλοῦν γὰρ αὐτῇ πῆμ' ἐπεστρατεύετο. 1185
 χρυσοῦς μὲν ἀμφὶ κρατὶ κείμενος πλόκος
 θαυμαστὸν ἴει νᾶμα παμφάγου πυρός·
 πέπλοι δὲ λεπτοὶ, σῶν τέκνων δωρήματα,
 λευκὴν ἔδαπτον σάρκα τῆς δυσδαίμονος.
 φεύγει δ' ἀναστᾶσ' ἐκ θρόνων πυρουμένη, 1190
 σείουσα χαίτην κρᾶτά τ' ἄλλοτ' ἄλλοσε,
 ῥῖψαι θέλουσα στέφανον· ἀλλ' ἀραρότως
 σύνδεσμα χρυσὸς εἶχε, πῦρ δ', ἐπεὶ κόμην
 ἔσεισε, μᾶλλον δις τόσως ἐλάπτετο.
 πίτνει δ' ἐς οὐδας ξυμφορᾶ νικωμένη, 1195
 πλὴν τῷ τεκόντι κάρτα δυσμαθῆς ἰδεῖν·
 οὐτ' ὀμμάτων γὰρ δῆλος ἦν κατάστασις
 οὐτ' εὐφυῆς πρόσωπον, αἶμα δ' ἐξ ἄκρου
 ἔσταζε κρατὸς, συμπεφυρμένον πυρὶ,
 σάρκες δ' ἀπ' ὀστέων ὥστε πεύκινον δάκρυ 1200
 γναθμοῖς ἀδήλοισ φαρμάκων ἀπέρρειον,
 δεινὸν θέαμα· πᾶσι δ' ἦν φόβος θιγεῖν
 νεκροῦ· τύχην γὰρ εἶχομεν διδάσκαλον.
 πατῆρ δ' ὁ τλήμων ξυμφορᾶς ἀγνωσία
 ἄφνω παρελθὼν δῶμα προσπίτνει νεκρῷ· 1205
 ὤμωξε δ' εὐθύς, καὶ περιπτύξας δέμας
 κυνεῖ προσαιδῶν τοιάδ'· ὦ δύστηνε παῖ,
 τίς σ' ὦδ' ἀτίμως δαιμόνων ἀπώλεσεν;
 τίς τὸν γέροντα τύμβον ὄρφανὸν σέθεν
 τίθησιν; οἴμοι, ξυνθάνοιμί σοι, τέκνον. 1210
 ἐπεὶ δὲ θρήνων καὶ γόων ἐπαύσατο,

- χρήζων γεραιὸν ἐξαναστῆσαι δέμας,
 προσείχεθ', ὥστε κισσοῦς ἔρνεσιν δάφνης,
 λεπτοῖσι πέπλοις, δεινὰ δ' ἦν παλαίσματα·
 ὁ μὲν γὰρ ἦθελ' ἐξαναστῆσαι γόνυ, 1215
 ἢ δ' ἀντελάζυτ'· εἰ δὲ πρὸς βίαν ἄγοι,
 σάρκας γεραιὰς ἐσπάρασσ' ἀπ' ὀστέων.
 χρόνῳ δ' ἀπέσβη καὶ μεθῆχ' ὁ δύσμορος
 ψυχὴν· κακοῦ γὰρ οὐκέτ' ἦν ὑπέρτερος.
 κείνται δὲ νεκροὶ παῖς τε καὶ γέρον πατῆρ 1220
 πέλας,—ποθεινὴ δὴ κλύουσι συμφορά.
 καί μοι τὸ μὲν σὸν ἐκποδῶν ἔστω λόγος
 —γνώσει γὰρ αὐτὴ ζημίας ἀποστροφὴν—
 τὰ θνητὰ δ' οὐ νῦν πρῶτον ἡγοῦμαι σκιάν·
 [οὐδ' ἂν τρέσας εἶποιμι τοὺς σοφοὺς βροτῶν 1225
 δοκοῦντας εἶναι καὶ μεριμνητὰς λόγων
 τούτους μεγίστην ζημίαν ὀφλισκάνει]
 θνητῶν γὰρ οὐδεὶς ἔστιν εὐδαίμων ἀνὴρ·
 ὄλβου δ' ἐπιρρύνεντος εὐτυχέστερος
 ἄλλου γένοιτ' ἂν ἄλλος, εὐδαίμων δ' ἂν οὔ. 1230
- ΧΟ. ἔοιχ' ὁ δαίμων πολλὰ τῆδ' ἐν ἡμέρᾳ
 κακὰ ξυνάψειν ἐνδίκως Ἰάσονι.
 ὦ τλῆμον, ὡς σου ξυμφορὰς οἰκτείρομεν,
 κόρη Κρέοντος, ἣτις εἰς Ἄιδου δόμους
 οἴχει γάμων ἕκατι τῶν Ἰάσονος. 1235
- ΜΗ. φίλαι, δέδοκται τοῦργον ὡς τάχιστά μοι
 παῖδας κτανούσῃ τῆσδ' ἀφορμᾶσθαι χθονός,
 καὶ μὴ σχολὴν ἄγουσαν ἐκδοῦναι τέκνα
 ἄλλῃ φονεῦσαι δυσμενεστέρα χερσί.
 πάντως σφ' ἀνάγκη κατθανεῖν. ἐπεὶ δὲ χρῆ, 1240
 ἡμεῖς κτενοῦμεν, οἵπερ ἐξεφύσαμεν.
 ἀλλ' εἴ' ὀπλίζου, καρδία. τί μέλλομεν
 τὰ δεινὰ κἀναγκαῖα μὴ οὐ πράσσειν κακά;

- ἄγ', ὦ τάλαινα χεῖρ ἐμὴ, λαβὲ ξίφος,
 λάβ', ἔρπε πρὸς βαλβίδα λυπηρὰν βίου, 1245
 καὶ μὴ κακισθῆς, μὴδ' ἀναμνησθῆς τέκνων,
 ὡς φίλταθ', ὡς ἔτικτες· ἀλλὰ τήνδε γε
 λαθοῦ βραχεῖαν ἡμέραν παίδων σέθεν,
 κᾶπειτα θρήνει· καὶ γὰρ εἰ κτενεῖς σφ' ὅμως
 φίλοι τ' ἔφυσαν,—δυστυχῆς δ' ἐγὼ γυνή. 1250
- ΧΟ. ἰὼ Γᾶ τε καὶ παμφαῆς 1250
 στρ.
 ἀκτῖς Ἄελίου, κατῖδεν' ἴδετε τὰν
 οὐλομένην γυναῖκα, πρὶν φοινίαν
 τέκνοις προσβαλεῖν χέρ' αὐτοκτόνον·
 σᾶς γὰρ ἀπὸ χρυσέας γονᾶς 1255
 ἔβλασταν, θεοῦ δ' αἵματι πίτνειν
 φόβος ὑπ' ἀνέρων.
 ἀλλὰ νιν, ὦ φᾶος διογενές, κάτειρ-
 γε, κατάπαυσον, ἔξελ' οἴκων τάλαι-
 ναν φοινίαν τ' Ἐρινὺν ὑπ' ἀλαστόρων. 1260
 μάταν μόχθος ἔρρει τέκνων, 1260
 ἀντ.
 μάταν ἄρα γένος φίλιον ἔτεκες, ὦ
 κυναεᾶν λιποῦσα Συμπληγάδων
 πετρᾶν ἀξενωτάταν ἐσβολάν.
 δειλαία, τί σοι φρενῶν βαρὺς 1265
 χόλος προσπίτνει, καὶ δυσμενῆς
 φόνος ἀμείβεται;
 χαλεπὰ γὰρ βροτοῖς ὁμογενῆ μιά-
 σματ', ἔτι τ' αἰὲν αὐτοφόνταισιν οἴ-
 दा θεόθεν πίτνοντ' ἐπὶ δόμοις ἄχρ. 1270
- ΠΑ. οἴμοι, τί δράσω; ΠΑ. ποῖ φύγω μητρὸς χέρας;
 [οὐκ οἶδ', ἀδελφὲ φίλτατ'· ὀλλύμεσθα γάρ.]
- ΧΟ. ἀκούεις βοᾶν ἀκούεις τέκνων; 1270
 στρ.
 ἰὼ τλᾶμον, ὦ κακοτυχὲς γύναι. [νοῖς. 1276
 παρέλθω δόμους; ἀρῆξαι φόνον δοκεῖ μοι τέκ-

- ΠΑ. ναί, πρὸς θεῶν, ἀρήξαιτ'· ἐν δέοντι γάρ·
ὡς ἐγγὺς ἦδη γ' ἐσμὲν ἀρκύων ξίφους.
- ΧΟ. τάλαιν', ὡς ἄρ' ἦσθα πέτρος ἢ σίδαρος, αἷτις τέκνων
ὦν ἔτεκες 1280
ἄροτον αὐτόχειρι μοῖρα κτενεῖς.
μίαν δὴ κλύω μίαν τῶν πάρος ἀντ.
γυναϊκῶν φίλοις χέρα βαλεῖν τέκνοις,
[Ἴνῳ μανείσαν ἐκ θεῶν, ὅθ' ἡ Διὸς
δάμαρ νιν ἐξέπεμψε δωμάτων ἄλῃ.] 1285
πίτνει δ' ἄ τάλαιν' ἐς ἄλμαν φόνῳ τέκνων δυσσεβεῖ,
[ἀκτῆς ὑπερτείνασα ποντίας πόδα,
δυοῖν τε παῖδοιν ξυθανοῦσ' ἀπόλλυται.]
τί δῆτ' οὖν γένοιτ' ἂν ἔτι δεινόν; ὦ 1290
γυναικῶν λέχος πολύπονον, ὅσα δὴ
βροτοῖς ἔρεξας ἦδη κακά.
- ΙΑ. γυναῖκες, αἱ τῆσδ' ἐγγὺς ἔστατε στέγης,
ἄρ' ἐν δόμοισιν ἢ τὰ δειν' εἰργασμένη
Μήδεια τοῖσδ' ἔτ', ἢ μεθέστηκεν φυγῇ; 1295
δεῖ γάρ νιν ἦτοι γῆς σφε κρυφθῆναι κάτω,
ἢ πτηνὸν ἄραι σῶμ' ἐς αἰθέρος βάθος,
εἰ μὴ τυράννων δώμασιν δώσει δίκη.
πέποιθ' ἀποκτείναςα κοιράνους χθονὸς
ἀθῶος αὐτῆ τῶνδε φεύξεσθαι δόμων; 1300
ἀλλ' οὐ γὰρ αὐτῆς φροντίδ' ὡς τέκνων ἔχω·
κείνην μὲν οὖς ἔδρασεν ἔρξουσιν κακῶς,
ἐμῶν δὲ παιδῶν ἦλθον ἐκσώσων βίον,
μή μοι τι δράσωσ' οἱ προσήκοντες γένει,
μητρῶον ἐκπράσσοντες ἀνόσιον φόνον. 1305
- ΧΟ. ὦ τλήμον, οὐκ οἶσθ' οἱ κακῶν ἐλήλυθας,
Ἴἄσον· οὐ γὰρ τούσδ' ἂν ἐφθέγξω λόγους.
- ΙΑ. τί δ' ἔστιν; ἢ που κάμ' ἀποκτεῖναι θέλει;
- ΧΟ. παῖδες τεθνήσι χειρὶ μητρῶα σέθεν.

- ΙΑ. οἶμοι τί λέξεις; ὡς μ' ἀπώλεσας, γύναι. 1310
- ΧΟ. ὡς οὐκέτ' ὄντων σῶν τέκνων φρόντιζε δή.
- ΙΑ. ποῦ γάρ νιν ἔκτειν', ἐντὸς ἧ' ἔωθεν δόμων;
- ΧΟ. πύλας ἀνοίξας σῶν τέκνων ὄψει φόνον.
- ΙΑ. χαλάτε κληῖδας ὡς τάχιστα, πρόσπολοι,
ἐκλίεθ' ἄρμους, ὡς ἴδω διπλοῦν κακόν,
τοὺς μὲν θανόντας,—τὴν δὲ τίσομαι φόνω. 1315
- ΜΗ. τί τάσδε κινεῖς κἀναμοχλεύεις πύλας,
νεκρούς ἐρευνῶν καμὲ τὴν εἰργασμένην;
παῦσαι πόνον τοῦδ'. εἰ δ' ἐμοῦ χρεῖαν ἔχεις,
λέγ' εἴ τι βούλει, χειρὶ δ' οὐ ψεύσεις ποτέ. 1320
τοιόνδ' ὄχημα πατρὸς Ἥλιος πατῆρ
δίδωσιν ἡμῖν, ἔρυμα πολεμίας χερός.
- ΙΑ. ὦ μῖσος, ὦ μέγιστον ἐχθίστη γύναι
θεοῖς τε καὶ μοι παντί τ' ἀνθρώπων γένει,
ἧτις τέκνοισι σοῖσιν ἐμβαλεῖν ξίφος 1325
ἔτλης τεκοῦσα, καμ' ἄπαιδ' ἀπώλεσας·
καὶ ταῦτα δράσασ' ἡλίον τε προσβλέπεις
καὶ γαῖαν, ἔργον τλάσα δυσσεβέστατον.
ὄλοι'. ἐγὼ δὲ νῦν φρονῶ, τότε οὐ φρονῶν
ὄτ' ἐκ δόμου σε βαρβάρου τ' ἀπὸ χθονὸς 1330
Ἑλλην' ἐς οἶκον ἠγόμην, κακόν μέγα,
πατρός τε καὶ γῆς προδότιν ἧ σ' ἐθρέψατο—
τῶν σῶν ἀλάστορ' εἰς ἐμ' ἔσκηψαν θεοί·
κτανούσα γὰρ δὴ σὸν κάσιν παρέστιον,
τὸ καλλίπρωρον εἰσέβης Ἀργούδς σκάφος. 1335
ἦρξω μὲν ἐκ τοιῶνδε, νυμφευθεῖσα δὲ
παρ' ἀνδρὶ τῷδε καὶ τεκοῦσά μοι τέκνα,
εὐνῆς ἕκατι καὶ λέχους σφ' ἀπώλεσας.
οὐκ ἔστιν ἧτις τοῦτ' ἂν Ἑλληνὶς γυνὴ
ἔτλη ποθ', ὧν γε πρόσθεν ἠξίουν ἐγὼ 1340
γῆμαί σε, κῆδος ἐχθρὸν ὀλέθριόν τ' ἐμοί,

- αν, οὐ γυναιῖκα, τῆς Τυρσηίδος
ης ἔχουσαν ἀγριωτέραν φύσιν.
 ἀλλ' οὐ γὰρ ἂν σε μυρίοις ὀνειδέσει
 δάκοιμι· τοιόνδ' ἐμπέφυκέ σοι θράσος· 1345
 ἔρρ', αἰσχροποιὲ καὶ τέχνην μαιφόνε.
 ἐμοὶ δὲ τὸν ἐμὸν δαίμον' αἰάζειν πάρα,
 ὃς οὔτε λέκτρων νεογάμων ὀνήσομαι,
 οὐ παῖδας οὓς ἔφυσα κάξεθρεψάμην
 ἔξω προσείπειν ζῶντας, ἀλλ' ἀπώλεσα. 1350
- ΜΗ.** μακρὰν ἂν ἐξέτεινα τοῖσδ' ἐναντία
 λόγοισιν, εἰ μὴ Ζεὺς πατὴρ ἠπίστατο
 οἷ' ἐξ ἐμοῦ πέπονθας οἶά τ' εἰργάσω·
 σὺ δ' οὐκ ἔμελλες τὰμ' ἀτιμάσας λέχη
 τερπνὸν διάξειν βίοντον ἐγγελῶν ἐμοὶ, 1355
 οὐδ' ἠ τύραννος οὐδ' ὁ σοὶ προθεῖς γάμους
 Κρέων ἀνατὶ τῆσδέ μ' ἐκβαλεῖν χθονός.
 πρὸς ταῦτα καὶ λέαιναν, εἰ βούλει, κάλει,
 [καὶ Σκύλλαν, ἣ Τυρσηνὸν ᾤκησεν πέδον]
 τῆς σῆς γὰρ ὡς χρῆ καρδίας ἀνθηψάμην. 1360
- ΙΑ.** καυτὴ γε λυπεῖ καὶ κακῶν κοινωνὸς εἶ.
- ΜΗ.** σάφ' ἴσθι· λυεὶ δ' ἄλγος, ἣν σὺ μὴ ἔγγελας.
- ΙΑ.** ὦ τέκνα, μητρὸς ὡς κακῆς ἐκύρσατε.
- ΜΗ.** ὦ παῖδες, ὡς ὄλεσθε πατρῶα νόσω
- ΙΑ.** οὔτοι νιν ἡμῇ δεξιά γ' ἀπώλεσεν. 1365
- ΜΗ.** ἀλλ' ὕβρις οἷ' τε σοὶ νεοδμήτες γάμοι.
- ΙΑ.** λέχους σφε κηξίωσας οὔνεκα κτανεῖν;
- ΜΗ.** σμικρὸν γυναικὶ πῆμα τοῦτ' εἶναι δοκεῖς;
- ΙΑ.** ἦτις γε σώφρων· σοὶ δὲ πάντ' ἐστὶν κακά.
- ΜΗ.** οἷδ' οὐκέτ' εἰσὶ· τοῦτο γὰρ σε δήξεται. 1370
- ΙΑ.** οἷδ' εἰσὶν, οἶμαι, σῶ κάρα μιάστορες.
- ΜΗ.** ἴσασιν ὅστις ἤρξε πημονῆς θεοί.
- ΙΑ.** ἴσασι δῆτα σὴν γ' ἀπόπτυστον φρένα.

- ΜΗ. στύγει.—πικρὰν δὲ βάξιν ἐχθαίρω σέθεν.
- ΙΑ. καὶ μὴν ἐγὼ σὴν· ῥάδιον δ' ἀπαλλαγαί. 1375
- ΜΗ. πῶς οὖν; τί δράσω; κάρτα γὰρ καγὼ θέλω.
- ΙΑ. θάψαι νεκρούς μοι τοῦσδε καὶ κλαῦσαι πάρες.
- ΜΗ. οὐ δῆτ', ἐπεὶ σφᾶς τῆδ' ἐγὼ θάψω χερὶ,
 φέρουσ' ἐς Ἥρας τέμενος ἀκραΐας θεοῦ,
 ὡς μὴ τις αὐτοῦ πολεμίων καθυβρίση, 1380
 τύμβους ἀνασπῶν· γῆ δὲ τῆδε Σισύφου
 σεμνὴν ἑορτὴν καὶ τέλη προσάψομεν
 τὸ λοιπὸν ἀντὶ τοῦδε δυσσεβοῦς φόνου.
 αὐτὴ δὲ γαίαν εἶμι τὴν Ἐρεχθέως,
 Αἰγεί συνοικήσουσα τῷ Πανδίωνος. 1385
 σὺ δ', ὥσπερ εἰκὸς, κατθανεῖ κακὸς κακῶς,
 Ἄργουὺς κára σὸν λειψάνῳ πεπληγμένους,
 πικρὰς τελευτὰς τῶν νέων ἰδὼν γάμων.
- ΙΑ. ἀλλὰ σ' Ἐρινὺς ὀλέσειε τέκνων
 φονία τε Δίκη. 1390
- ΜΗ. τίς δὲ κλύει σου θεὸς ἢ δαίμων,
 τοῦ ψευδόρκου καὶ ξιναπάτου;
- ΙΑ. φεῦ φεῦ, μυσαρὰ καὶ παιδολέτωρ.
- ΜΗ. στείχε πρὸς οἴκους καὶ θάπτ' ἄλοχον.
- ΙΑ. στείχω, δισσῶν γ' ἄμορος τέκνων. 1395
- ΜΗ. οὐπω θρηνεῖς· μένε καὶ γῆρας.
- ΙΑ. ὦ τέκνα φίλτατα. ΜΗ. μητρὶ γε, σοὶ δ' οὔ.
- ΙΑ. κάπειτ' ἔκτας; ΜΗ. σέ γε πημαίνουσ'.
- ΙΑ. αἰαῖ· φιλίου χρήζω στόματος
 παίδων ὁ τάλας προσπτόξασθαι. 1400
- ΜΗ. νῦν σφε προσανδᾶς, νῦν ἀσπάζει,
 τότ' ἀπωσάμενος. ΙΑ. δός μοι πρὸς θεῶν
 μαλακοῦ χρωτὸς ψαῦσαι τέκνων.
- ΜΗ. οὐκ ἔστι· μάτην ἔπος ἔρριπται.
- ΙΑ. Ζεῦ, τὰδ' ἀκούεις ὡς ἀπελαυνόμεθ', 1405

οἶά τε πάσχομεν ἐκ τῆς μυσαρᾶς
καὶ παιδοφόνου τῆσδε λεαίνης ;
ἀλλ' ὅποσον γοῦν πάρα καὶ δύναμαι,
τάδε καὶ θρηγῶ καπιθεάζω,
μαρτυρόμενος δαίμονας ὧς μοι
τέκν' ἀποκτεῖνας' ἀποκωλύεις
ψαῦσαί τε χεροῖν θάψαι τε νεκροῦς,
οὐς μήποτ' ἐγὼ φύσας ὄφελον
πρὸς σοῦ φθιμένους ἐπιδέσθαι.

1410

[ΧΟ. πολλῶν ταμίης Ζεὺς ἐν Ὀλύμπῳ,
πολλὰ δ' ἀέλπτως κραινοῦσι θεοί·
καὶ τὰ δοκηθέντ' οὐκ ἐτελέσθη,
τῶν δ' ἀδοκῆτων πόρον ἦρε θεός.
τοιόνδ' ἀπέβη τόδε πράγμα.]

1415

NOTES.

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ. See the *Analysis*.

1. On the allusions in the Prologue see the *Introduction*.

'**Ἄργου**ς σκάφος, *the ship Argo*, genitive of definition, the English 'city of London'. **διαπτάσθαι**, aor. of *διαπέτομαι*, governs the acc. **Συμπλ.**

2. **Συμπληγάδας**. Rocks at the entrance of the Euxine, which according to the legend were moveable and clashed together (*συμπλήσσειν*) before the passage of the Argonauts, after which they became fixed. The reason of their being called *blue* is uncertain, perhaps from the mist of distance. HOMER (*Od.* 12. 75) says of them *νεφέλη δέ μιν ἀμφιβέβηκεν κυανέη*.

3. **Πηλίω**. Pelion, a mountain in Thessaly, where the Argo was built. As the cutting of the pines is earlier in time than the voyage of the ship the transition from the one to the other has the effect of a climax, *nay, that the pine had ne'er been cut*.

4. **τμηθεῖσα**, see *τέμνω*. **ἐρετμῶσαι**. Subject *τὴν πεύκην*. The timber *supplies the hands with the oars* which are made of it.

5. **ἀνδρῶν ἀριστέων**, *chieftains (ἀριστεύς)*, a familiar description of the Argonauts. *ἀρίστων*, *bravest*, mss.

6. **Πελία**, *for* (at the bidding of) *Pelias*.

7. **πύργους γῆς Ἴωλκίας**, *Iolkos' towered town*. In the language of poetry *γῆ* and *πόλις* are scarcely distinguishable.

11. **μὲν** answers to *δὲ* in 16. Lines 14 and 15 form a parenthesis.

13. The dative **Ἰάσονι** depends both upon *ἀνδάνουσα* and upon *συμφέρουσα*. 12 was probably inserted because *ἀνδάνουσα* appeared to have no object. **πολιτῶν**, if the reading is correct, is for *πολιταίς*, being attracted into the case of the relative *ᾧν* (*pleasing by her exile the citizens to whose land*).

14. ἤπερ. The antecedent is τὸ ἀνδάνειν καὶ συμφέρειν supplied from the preceding sentence but the relative is made by a Greek idiom to agree with the predicate σωτηρία.

16. νοσεὶ τὰ φίλτατα, *dearest love proves frail*. Cf. Eur. fr. 570, κέρδους δ' ἑκατι καὶ τὸ συγγενὲς νοσεὶ, *for a bribe even kinship proves frail*. νόσος in Euripides has the general signification of weakness.

21. βοῶ, *invokes, appeals to*. ὄρκους, Jason's oath of fidelity.

δεξιὰς, *hands*, that is the joining of hands, as a ceremony of promising. Another reading is δεξιὰς πίστιν μεγίστην. μὲν ...δέ, often used where a word or an idea is repeated, as in Aesch. Pers. 27, φοβεροὶ μὲν ἰδεῖν, δεινοὶ δὲ μάχην.

24. σῶμ'...ἀλγηδόσι, *yielding herself to pain*, i.e. prostrated by it. The aorist (ὑφίημι) denotes that the action is complete.

25. The object to συντήκουσα (σῶμα) is to be supplied from the previous line. χρόνον ἐπέλ, *time since*, acc. of duration. An alternative is to render συντήκουσα χρόνον, *wasting* (i.e. spending) *the time*.

26. ἡδίκημένη, participle after verb of perception; *learnt that she has been wronged*. ἦσθητο, see αἰσθάνομαι.

29. φίλων depends on ἀκούει.

30. ἦν μὴ ποτε...ἀποιμώζη, lit. *unless sometimes she laments*, i.e. *except that sometimes she laments*, but the syntax is unusual. More regularly it would be πλὴν εἰ...ἀποιμώζει.

31. ἀποιμώζη, *laments heartily*, freely, or without restraint, the preposition having the same force as in ἀποδακρῶω. The rendering *weeps apart* is also here possible.

33. ἔχω with the aorist participle expresses the continuance of the effect signified by the verb; here *holds her in dishonour*, so in 90, ἐρημώσας ἔχε, *keep them separated*.

35. *What a good thing* (lit. *what kind of thing*) *it is not &c.* Cf. Dem. F. L. 384, ἡλικὸν ἐστὶ τὸ μὴ πωλεῖν τὰ τῆς πόλεως.

37. δέδοικα, see δαίω.

38. βαρεῖα, *dangerous*. So in Herakl. 4, συναλλάσσειν βαρῆς, *dangerous to deal with*.

39. ἐγώφθα τήνδε, *I know her*, i.e. her character. This expression is unusual in two ways: (1) because εἰδέναι τι is 'to know a fact,' not 'to know an object,' (2) because ὅδε in Euripides commonly signifies a person present or at least (see 368) signifiable by gesture. Others read οὐδ' ἀρέξεται κακῶς πάσχουσ',

ἐγφδα, τῆδε, δειμαίνω τέ νιν. *Not thus, I trow, will she submit to wrong, not, that is, without an effort for revenge.*

40—43. Scraps from other parts of the play (see 288, 379, 380) inserted here to give, for stage convenience, an anticipation of the plot. δι' ἡπατος, not being explained by the context, is here unintelligible: the fears hinted in 37 are really (see 98) for the children. ὤση, see ὠθέω.

45. καλλίνικον οἴσεται (sc. ἐχθραν), shall carry it triumphantly. ἐχθραν is the object to οἴσεται as well as to συμβαλῶν, and καλλίνικον is a further predicate. Cf. *Phoen.* 252, μάχης ἀν' Ἀρης τάχ' οἴσεται, and the English 'win a battle.' Other explanations are (1) shall win a crown of victory, supplying στέφανον, (2) shall sing a song of victory, reading ᾄσεται and supplying ψῶν. But where the substantive is thus omitted the adjective has the article—τὴν καλλίνικον.

46. τρόχων=δρόμων, means both *exercises* and *exercise-ground*. This τρόχος must be distinguished from τροχός, a *circle*. The construction is στείχουσιν ἐκ τρόχων πεπαυμένοι αὐτῶν (or ἐξ αὐτῶν). For ἐκ cf. νεογνῶν ἐκ τῶων πεπαυμένη, *Soph. El.* 231.

49. παιδαγωγός. "The office of tutor in a Grecian family of rank and opulence was assigned to one of the most trustworthy of the slaves. The sons of his master were committed to his care on attaining their sixth or seventh year...*He went with them to and from the school or gymnasium* (Plato, *Lysis*, p. 208); he accompanied them out of doors on all occasions; he was responsible for their personal safety."

The genitives οἴκων and δεσποίνης depend upon κτῆμα, but οἴκων more closely than δεσποίνης, making in fact a compound substantive, *house-chattel*.

50. A gentle reproach, 'why come to shriek over the sorrows alone, instead of sharing them with our mistress?' The word θρέομαι is rare and consequently emphatic.

52. σοῦ. The gen. depends on the sense of deprivation in μόνη λείπεσθαι.

54. ξυμφορά, a *grief*, commonly 'a misfortune,' but cf. *Or.* 139, ἐμοὶ τόνδ' ἐξεγείραι συμφορὰ γενήσεται, *I shall be sorry to wake him.*

55. κακῶς πίνοντα, a metaphor from dice.

56. ἐγὼ γάρ. Note the emphasis, *as for me, I*. γάρ marks a special case of the preceding maxim, the full implied sense being 'this is proved in my case, for &c.' ἐκβέβηκα see ἐκβαίνω.

57. ὑπήλθε, *beguiled me*. The expression is slightly apologetic; for the force of the compound cf. the vulgar English 'come over.'

58. μολούση (see βλώσκω) constructed as if with e.g. ἔμερος ἦν μοι. Cf. *Irh. A.* 491, ἄλλως τέ μ' ἔλεος τῆς ταλαιπώρου κόρης εἰσῆλθε συγγένειαν ἐννοουμένῳ, *Soph. O. T.* 353, ἐννέπω σε προσαυδᾶν μήτε τοῦσδε μήτ' ἐμέ ὡς ὄντι γῆς τῆσδ' ἀνοσίφ μιάστορι.

60. ζηλώ σε, either (1) elliptically for ζηλώ σε τοῦ νοῦ, 'I envy your intelligence,' i.e. by irony, 'You are not very sharp-witted;' or better (2) *I envy you*, that is, 'you are the happier that you have not my reasons for knowing our mistress' true state.'

ἐν ἀρχῇ...μεσοῖ. *The mischief is in the first stage and is not yet at its middle*. A medical metaphor. μεσοῖ = μεσοί 3rd pers. sing. pres. ind. of μεσώω.

61. ὦ μῶρος. She is *unreasonable* in indulging her jealous feelings. Cf. 456 and *Andr.* 938, ἐξηνεμώθην μωρία, *I was puffed up with passion*. μωρία is specially used by Euripides of exaggerated sentiments, cf. *Alk.* 1093, αἰνῶ μὲν αἰνῶ, μωρίαν δ' ὀφλισκάνεις (=you go too far); see also 371, 457. The slave hesitates at the word as disrespectful.

64. μετέγνων, *I recall*, cf. *Thuk.* 3. 40, μὴ μεταγνῶναι τὰ προεδογμένα. The aorist is often used in Greek of a thing which has happened immediately before the time of speaking, where in English we use the present. So e.g. 213, ἐξῆλθον, *I come out*, properly, *I came out just this minute*. Hence it is also used of a contemporaneous action, if it is complete in the moment of speaking, as in 272 εἶπον, *I (hereby) bid you*.

65. πρὸς γενείου. To touch the chin, beard, or knee was an act of supplication: hence the adjurations πρὸς γενείου, πρὸς γονάτων. μὴ κρύπτει σὺνδουλον σέθεν (τὸ πρᾶγμα) *do not keep the thing from your fellow-servant*. Cf. the construction of the Latin *celo*.

67. οὐ δοκῶν κλύειν, *pretending not to hear*. Cf. *Hipp.* 119, μὴ δόκει τοῦτων κλύειν.

68. The spring of Peirene, hallowed by its connection with the legend of the horse Pegasus who drank of it, or (according to others) produced it by his tread, was one of the most famous things in Corinth. An oracle in Herodotos (5. 92) speaks to the people as Κορίνθιοι οἱ περὶ καλὴν Πειρήνην οἰκεῖτε, and Pindar (*Ol.* 13. 86) of the city as ἄστυ Πειράνας. It appears from this passage that some place near the spring was called πεσσοί, but the reason is uncertain. The Scholiast explains it as the place where the game of πεσσοί, a sort of

draughts, was played, comparing the Athenian way of describing a market by the name of the thing sold there as *ἐν τῷ ὄψω, ἐν ταῖς μυρρίναις, at the fish-market, or myrtle-market.* But this is probably a mere guess. It has been suggested that stone posts surrounding the fountain might be so called from their shape. *παλαιότεροι.* The older men who went there for gossip, and perhaps for the game.

70. *ἐλάν*, see *ἐλαύνω*.

72. *σαφής*, true.

73. *βουλομένην δ' ἄν*, *I do hope.* This is in form a modest wish, 'I should prefer,' converted probably by the tone of the voice into a strong protest. So in *Hek.* 319, *τύμβον δὲ βουλομένην ἄν ἀξιούμενον τὸν ἐμὸν ὄρασθαι* (*In life little contents me*) but *I do hope that my tomb may be respected.*

76. The genitive *κηδευμάτων* is governed by the comparative implied in *λείπεται = ἥσσω ἐστί.* Cf. *Soph. Ai.* 1357, *νικᾷ γὰρ ἀρετὴ με τῆς ἐχθρας πολὺ, his virtue prevails with me much more than my enmity.* *λείπεται*, are *outrun* (lit. *left behind*) by.

77. *οὐκ ἔστι*, *is not*, i. e. *is no longer.*

78. *εἰ...ἐξηνητηκένοι*, if before we are clear of our old grief we must carry a new one besides (*προσ-*), lit. *before we have pumped out* (see *ἄντλος*) *the old*, the metaphor being that of a ship filled by successive waves.

80. Supply *ἐστί.*

81. *ἡσύχαζε.* *Be calm*, i. e. *hide your emotion.* Cf. *H. F.* 98, *ἀλλ' ἡσύχαζε καὶ δακρυρῶους τέκνων πηγὰς ἀφαίρει*, *compose your face and check the children's tears.*

83. *ὄλοιτο μὲν μή.* *Curse him—I will not.* A curse checked when half uttered. Cf. *Soph. Trach.* 383, *ὄλοιτο μή τι πάντες οἱ κακοὶ, τὰ δὲ λαθραὶ' ὄς ἀσκεῖ*, where the first thought, *ὄλοιτο οἱ κακοὶ*, is corrected, as here it is suppressed.

84. *κακὸς*, false. Cf. *Or.* 740, *κακὸς ἐφωράθη* (see *φωράω*) *φίλοις.*

85. *Are you now for the first time learning this, that every man loves himself more than his neighbour, some with a righteous self-love, but others for greed's sake, as from passion the father of these children has ceased to love them?* The conjunction *εἰ...γε* (*since*) introduces a proof of the general principle before laid down, viz. that all men are selfish. For *ἄρτι*, *now*, that is, *now only*, see *Alk.* 940, *ἄρτι μανθάνω*, *I see it now*, and *Soph. Ai.* 595, *τούμὸν ἦθος ἄρτι παιδεύειν*, *begin schooling me now.* *οὐ στέργει*, *is inconstant to*, as *στέργειν*

often to be constant to; so in *Andr.* 740, *μίαν στεργέτω πόσις εὐνάν*. By *δικαίως φιλεῖν ἑαυτὸν* is meant the reasonable and equitable self-love which does not prevent a man from recognizing the claims of others; the contrast between *δίκη* and *κέρδος* is quite out of place here, but Euripides has a fondness for subtlety.

89. *εὖ γὰρ ἔσται*, probably an error of the mss. for *εὖ γὰρ ἔστω* (cf. *Aesch. Ag.* 216, *εὖ γὰρ εἶη*, where, as here, the speaker is resolving upon a dangerous step) *may all be for the best!* In commanding the children to go in, the nurse recalls her fears (see 39).

90. See 33.

93. *τοῖσδε*, at them. Cf. *θυμοῦσθαί τιμι, ὀργίζεσθαί τιμι*.

94. *πρὶν κατασκήψαι τινα*, till she strike down a victim. The transitive sense of *σκήπτειν* is remarkable. An ancient commentator remembering *σκηπτὸς*, a thunderbolt, explains *κατασκήψαι* by *κεραυνῶσαι*, and this is probably not far from the poet's meaning.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ. See the *Analysis*.

96. *μελέα πόνων*, lit. *wretched in respect of sufferings*. For the genitive cf. 995.

98. *τόδ' ἐκέينو*. *This is it*, an idiom equivalent to the English *Didn't I say so?* See 20, 37, 92.

99. *κινεῖ...χόλον*. Cf. *Aristoph. Vesp.* 403, *εἰπέ μοι τί μέλλομεν κινεῖν ἐκείνην τῆν χολήν*; Here *κινεῖν* is literally *to set working, set in motion*, and so is *setting her heart, her wrathful heart, to work*.

106. *δῆλον...θυμῷ*. The grammatical construction is *δῆλον δ' ὡς (Μήδεια) τάχ' ἀνάψει μείζονι θυμῷ νέφος ἐξαιρόμενον ἀρχῆς (τῆς) οἰμωγῆς*. In prose *οἰμωγῆς* would have the article. *It is plain that soon she will kindle with increased wrath the cloud now arising from its beginning, her cry, or in English order, 'Tis plain that her cry is the beginning of a cloud which soon she will fire with increase of wrath*. Medea's anger is compared to a thunderstorm; her ominous words (96) are the small beginning of the cloud, and the danger apprehended to her children is the lightning. Others read *ὀργῆς* for *ἀρχῆς*, *'tis plain that soon she will kindle with increased wrath the cloud of lamentation rising from her rage*. Others *τάραχης* (= *ταραχῆς*) for *τ' ἀρχῆς*.

110. *δηχθεῖσα*, see *δάκνω*.

112. This abrupt imprecation is called forth by the sight of the children.

118. ὑπεραλγῶ. The preposition signifies *on your behalf*, the object (ὕμῶν) being supplied.

119. *Strange are the tempers of princes, and because perhaps they are seldom overruled and oftenest have their way, they violently change their moods.* For χαλεπῶς μεταβάλλειν, cf. Hipp. 201, μὴ χαλεπῶς μετάβαλλε δέμας, and for the neutral sense of ὀργή, mood, Tro. 53, ὀργαὶ ἤπιοι and Bacch. 997, ἀδίκῳ γνώμα παρανόμῳ τ' ὀργᾶ... παρακόπῳ τε λήματι. The want of equal temper exhibited by Medea, who, it must be remembered, was herself of royal blood (τύραννος), causes the nurse to reflect, in the philosophic tone of which Euripides is fond, upon the equability of the middle condition of life, which is praised by way of contrast to the changeable humours of rank and luxury.

122. *For to have been trained to live on equal terms is better than to encounter the temptations of a society of great inequalities.* εἰσθῆναι, see ἐθίζω.

123. ἐπὶ μὴ μεγάλοις, *in a condition below greatness.* MSS. εἰ μὴ μεγάλως, but see next note.

125. *For not only is the name of moderation better in sound (than greatness) but in use (the thing) is far best for mortal man.* εἰπεῖν... χρῆσθαι, infinitives explanatory of νικᾷ (= μείζω ἔστι) and λῶστα. νικᾷ, sc. τὰ μεγάλα. The necessity of a context from which to supply these words justifies the correction ἐπὶ μὴ μεγάλοις.

μὲν... τε. As compared with the regular μὲν... δέ, this combination of particles has the effect of treating the first proposition as a mere preliminary to the second, upon which the emphasis is thus thrown. So again in 429, 430—*But the length of time offers much doubtless to be said of our part (women), but much also of the men.*

127. *But over-greatness (lit. excessiveness) imports no blessing to man, but pays the penalty of a worse ruin when fortune is angered with the house, i.e. Too high a rise only leads to a deeper fall.* καιρὸν, profit, good. Cf. Tro. 744, τὸ δ' ἐσθλὸν οὐκ ἐς καιρὸν ἦλθέ σοι πατρός, *Your father's nobleness did not profit you.* δύναται, is equivalent to, cf. Thuk. 1. 141, τὴν γὰρ αὐτὴν δύναται δούλωσιν ἢ τε μεγίστη καὶ ἐλαχίστη δικαίωσις ἀπὸ τῶν ὁμοίων πρὸ δίκης τοῖς πέλας ἐπιτασσομένη, *For the enforcement before arbitration of a claim by equals upon their neighbours, however large it may be or however small, is alike equivalent to their enslavement.* The latter part of the sentence may also be punctuated thus: δαίμων, οἴκοις ἀπέδωκεν, in which case ἀπέδωκεν will mean *inflicts retributively*, but the sense is without example. It should be said that the peculiarity of

the language here, the fact that one ms. reads *βροτοῖς* for *θνητοῖς*, and the obscurity of the ancient commentaries suggest doubts as to the correctness of the text.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. See the Introduction and *Analysis*.

134. *γεραῖά*, cf. *H. F.* 447, 900. The anapaestic metre (see on 1396) is continued down to *λέξον*.

135. *ἀμφιπύλου* may be taken either as substantive or as adjective. In the first case, *οὔσα* must be supplied, *being at the doorway* of Medea's house. But the existence of the substantive is doubtful, and the participle ought not to be omitted. Connect therefore *ἀμφιπύλου μελάθρου*; *for toward the double-gated court within I heard, &c.*, the *ἀμφ.* *μέλ.* being the *αὐλή*, or court of the house with its two doors to the rooms and to the street.

138. *Tell me, dear, I pray, what has come to pass?* MSS. *ἐπεὶ μοι φίλον κέκρανται*, with variants, *εἰπέ* and *φιλία*. Those who take the reading *ἐπεὶ...κέκρανται*, translate it *since it* (the house) *has come to be dear to me*. But *κραίνειν* is not used in any such sense or construction.

139. *All that is over now.*

141. *θαλάμοις*, the *bower*, inner apartments, properly belonging to the women and children. *τῆκει βιοτήν*, *is dwindling away*, lit. *is wasting her life*. See on 25.

142. Constr. *οὐδὲν παραθ. φρ. μύθ. οὐδενὸς φίλ.*, *nor does her heart take warmth at all from any friendly words*. For the metaphorical *θάλπειν*, *to rouse, inspire*, see *Soph. El.* 887, *ἐς τί μοι βλέψασα θάλπει τῷδ' ἀνηκέστῳ πυρί*; *φρένα* is accusative of respect after *παραθαλπούμενη*.

145. *βαῖη*, see *βαίνω*.

148. *ὦ Ζεῦ...φῶς*. The adjuration is merely a parenthetical expression of horror, *αἶες* being addressed by the members of the Chorus to each other. Cf. *Or.* 1495, *ἀ δ' ἐκ θαλάμων ἐγένετο...ἀφαντος—ὦ Ζεῦ καὶ γὰ καὶ φῶς—ἦτοι φαρμάκοισιν ἢ κ.τ.λ.* *Hipp.* 672, *ἐτύχομεν δίκας, ἴω γὰ καὶ φῶς*.

149. *ιαχάν*. Here and in some other places, *ἀχά*, *sound*, Doric form of *ἤχη* is sometimes read conjecturally for *ιαχά*, *wail*.

μέλπει. *What a wail she sings. μέλπειν* in a non-literal sense is extremely rare. There is an exact parallel in *Andr.* 1037, *πολλὰι δὲ...στοναχὰς μέλποντο δυστάρων τεκέων ἄλοχοι*. The lament of the deserted wife is called with compassionate irony her 'song.'

151. τὰς...κοίτας, *that awful lying-place, i.e. the bed of death.* Others τὰς ἀπλήστου κοίτας, *Why yearnest thou for thy insatiate bed?* Others again read τί for τίς, and τελευτάν for τελευτά, making τί...τελευτάν; one sentence, *Why should yearning for, &c....hasten thy fatal end?* MSS. ἀπλάστου (or ἀπλήστου)...τελευτάν.

153. μηδέν. Adverbially, *By no means.* Similar in form and sense to Aesch. *Ag.* 1462, μηδέν θανάτου μοῖραν ἐπέυχου τοῖσδε βαρυνθείς. It is probably a reminiscence.

156. *Let not your anger for that fall upon him.* κείνω is by its position emphatic (see note on 316), so that the Chorus appear to be diverting Medea's anger from Jason, which can scarcely be their intention. This and the somewhat forced construction of the accusative make the text suspicious. Others κινῶν τόδε· μὴ χάρασσου, *the case is common, be not wounded.*

159. τάκου, Doric form of τήκου.

160. MSS. ὦ μεγάλη Θέμι καὶ πότνι' Ἄρτεμι. As the nurse (169) expressly calls attention to the invocation of Zeus and Themis, and the invocation of Artemis is in itself not suitable to the occasion, it is certain that this is corrupt. The correction in the text has been suggested to me by Mr H. A. J. Munro; it is at all events close to the MSS. ἄρτι with πάσχω: *Great Themis and husband (of Themis) see ye what I suffer now.* ἄρτι is emphatic—'Are my wrongs now enough to provoke your vengeance?' Hence its position: see on 316. The husband of Themis is Zeus. ὦ μέγαλε Ζεῦ καὶ Θέμι πότνια is another suggestion. Zeus and Themis (Justice) were held especially to sanction oaths.

164. αὐτοῖς μελάθροισι, *them and their house together, lit. with their very house.* For this use of αὐτοῖς, cf. *Hipp.* 1340, τοῖς γε μὴν κακοῖς αὐτοῖς τέκνοισι καὶ δόμοις ἐξόλλυμεν. Aesch. *Pr.* V. 221, Ταρτάρου...κευθμῶν καλύπτει τὸν παλαιγενῆ Κρόνον αὐτοῖσι συμμάχοισι, &c.

165. οἳ γε, *forasmuch as they.* Lat. qui ipse qui. πρόσθεν ἀδικεῖν, *to wrong first, i.e. unprovoked.*

166. ἀπενάσθη, see ἀποναίω.

169. εὐκταίαν, *invoked to sanction vows (εὐχαί).*

171. *Assuredly in no slight (blow) will my lady discharge her wrath.*

οὐκ ἔστιν ὅπως = *it is not possible that.*

172. καταπάσαι, *literally, will bring it to a rest.*

173. πῶς ἄν... *Would that...*

175. **δέξαιτο**, *hearken to*. Cf. *Hipp.* 89, ἀρ' ἂν τί μου δέξαιτο βουλευσάντος εὐ; *Soph. Phil.* 1321, οὔτε σύμβουλον δέχει.

176. **εἰ...μεθείη**, *if, by any means she may, &c.* i.e. *that so she may, &c.* The mood naturally follows that of the principal verb ἂν δέξαιτο.

μεθείη, see *μεθίημι*. **βαρύθυμον**, *dangerous*, cf. 38. **ὄργαν καὶ λῆμα**, *mood and spirit*. See 119, 121.

177. **φρενῶν**, genitive after *μεθείη*.

178. **τό γ' ἐμὸν πρόθυμον**, *my goodwill at least*, even if it is ineffective.

1:2. **φίλα δ' εἰ τάδ', αὔδα**, *tell me, if my request is welcome*. This reading has been proposed to me by Prof. Robinson Ellis. It gives unimpeachable sense, and I have placed it in the text for consideration.

[MSS. **ἔξω φίλα καὶ τάδ' αὔδα**
σπεῦσαι πρὶν τι κακῶσαι τοὺς εἶσω

with a variation *σπεῦσον*. In my larger edition I gave

ἔξω, φίλα, εἰ τάδ' αὐδᾶ·
σπεῦσον κ.τ.λ.,

bring her forth from the house, dear, since thus she speaks. (*φίλα* voc. fem.). This has certainly no advantage in sense over Prof. Ellis' suggestion, but the corruption of it is more easily explained. In 183 it must be conceded to Wecklein and others that *σπεῦσον* looks like a correction, and that *σπεῦσαι* is our true ms. reading. I am strongly disposed to accept his *σπεῦσα[σα]*, which combines better with my version of 182 than with the old, and adopt

ἔξω, φίλα, εἰ τάδ' αὐδᾶ,
σπέυσσα πρὶν ἢ κακῶσαι κ.τ.λ.

πρὶν ἢ Elmsley (H for TI): the objection that *πρὶν ἢ* does not occur in tragedy has never seemed to me weighty. The reading so obtained is exceedingly close to the mss. and the deflexions of the commonest sort.]

184. *For now her grief is rising violently*, and therefore threatens speedy mischief. **ὄρμᾶται** suggests the image of a thing moving on, as a wave or line of battle.

185. **φόβος (ἔστιν) εἰ**, *I doubt whether*, cf. *Herakl.* 791, φόβος γὰρ εἴ μοι ζῶσω οὐς ἐγὼ θέλω.

186. **μόχθου**, placed emphatically with a purpose, *as for the trouble, the boon of it shall be given in*, that is, in addition to (ἐπι-) what I have done already.

187. ἀποταυροῦται δέριμα. Note the preposition, *she meets them with* (gives them back) *the fierce look*. δέριμα, accusative quasi-cognate.

190. *One would not err in saying past generations were rude and had no art at all.* σοφία here is *art or culture generally* (cf. 829, 844). The Greek education consisted chiefly of music (in the modern sense) and poetry, regarded as parts of one whole (μουσική). See the *Analysis*.

194. βίου τερπνὰς ἀκοάς, *pleasures for the ears of the wealthy*, lit. *delightful sounds belonging to wealth*. βίος derives the meaning of *good living or luxury* from that of *means or substance* in which (see the dictionary) it is common. Cf. *Ion* 326, ἔχεις δὲ βίον; εὖ γὰρ ἤσκησαι πέπλοις, *And livest thou in luxury? For thy dress is rich*: where βίος is by the context sharply contrasted with mere τροφή *support of life*, *Supp.* 450, πλοῦτος καὶ βίος, fr. 198, εὐτυχῶν καὶ βίον κεκτημένος, *Supp.* 882, πρὸς ἡδονὰς μουσῶν τραπέσθαι πρὸς τὸ μαλθακὸν βίον, *the soft path of luxury*, fr. 196, ἀνὴρ εὖ βίον κεκτημένος...μολπαῖσι δ' ἤσθεις: observe in the two last quotations the connexion of βίος with music. The genitive here has the force of an adjective. Others take βίου in the sense of *life*.

196. λύπας ἤϊετο παύειν, *found how to allay griefs*.

197. ἐξ ὧν (λυπῶν), *in consequence of &c.*

198. τύχαι, *strokes* (such as madness or disease), the proper meaning of the word, though rare; so τυγχάνειν, *to hit*. Cf. *Her. Furens* 1393, μᾶ πηγγέντες ἄβλοι τύχη.

199. Constr. [τὸ] βροτοῦς μολπαῖς τὰδε ἀκεῖσθαι [ἂν εἴη] κέρδος.

200. *Where rich banquets are.* The connexion of one substantive (δαῖτες) with an adjective compounded of a synonymous substantive (δείπνον), is a common method of poetical decoration. Cf. *νάρθηξ εὐθυρσος*, *the light wand*, *Bacch.* 1157, *εὐπήχεις χεῖρες*, *beautiful hands*, *Hipp.* 200, *λιμένες εὐορμοί*, *fair havens*, *Tro.* 124.

201. μάτην τείνουσι βροῖν, *tune sound in vain*, lit. 'pitch' it: cf. *τόνος*, *pitch*.

204. See the *Analysis*. εἶον for ἦιον, imperfect of αἶω.

205. βοᾷ ἄχεια τὸν προδόταν, *she calls with woeful outcry upon the traitor*. βοᾷν-ἄχεια 'to cry woes' forms a compound verb governing τὸν προδόταν just as the simple βοᾷν might. Cf. *Tro.* 335, βοᾷτε-τὸν-ὑμέναιον νύμφαν, *sing in honour of the bride the loud marriage-song*, *Or.* 1383, στένω-μέλος σε, *Iph. A.* 1463, ἐπευφημήσατε-παιᾶνα Ἄρτεμιν.

206. ἐν λέξει προδόταν, *traitor to* (in the matter of) *her* *bed*. τὸν...κακόννυμφον repeats the overheard words of Medea, ὦ...κακόννυμφε. See the *Analysis*.

209. Themis brought Medea to Hellas inasmuch as she was tempted to accompany Jason by her reliance upon the promises which Themis was invoked to sanction. ἐβασεν (ἐβησεν) transitive: see βαίνω.

210. Hellas is ἀντίπορος (on the other side of the strait) with regard to Asia.

211. νύχιον, probably an error for μύχιον. The ἄλς μύχιος is the 'inlocked Propontis,' the modern sea of Marmora, μυχία Προποντίς as it is called by Aeschylus (*Pers.* 875), across which Medea passed to the *ocean-key*, the *unconfined*, the Ἐλλάσποντος ἀπέιρων of Homer (*Il.* 24. 545).

Πόντον, the *Main*, the Euxine, so called as the most open sea with which the ancient Greeks were familiar. It has been suggested (L. Schmidt) that ἄλς νύχιος may also be the Euxine, from the prevalent gloom of its sky as compared with the Mediterranean.

213—224. Medea, who must be conceived as showing in her aspect and manner the outward marks of the most violent mental agony, is at length led by her servant from the house. Addressing herself to speak, she apologizes for her reluctance to meet her visitors, which she begs them to attribute not to discourtesy, but to want of nerve (225). She has forced herself to come both for fear her reserve should be misunderstood (214—221), and also because as a foreigner she felt specially bound to receive with civility advances from natives of the place (222—224).

213. ἐξῆλθον...μέμφησθε. We do not use the past definite tense of an action only completed in the moment of speaking: the Greeks did (cf. 64); but in that case as the aorist expresses the sense of a present-perfect (*I am come*) it can naturally be followed by the subjunctive in subordinate sentences. Observe the tense of μέμφησθε, *fearing that you may be blaming me*.

214—221. *For I know that many get ill-repute by a reserved behaviour, some from the fault of their eyes—such, I mean, as so behave to those (they meet) out-of-doors—others by indolence and from a lazy foot. For there is no justice in men's eyes if, unprovoked, they hate at sight one whose heart they have not truly learnt: and it is a duty to meet the city, for a stranger in particular, though I do not thereby commend the native who annoys other citizens with a selfish behaviour produced by ill-breeding.*

The construction of the first clause (*οἶδα...ῥαθυμία*) is slightly obscured by compression and by the substitution, which is not uncommon in Greek, of a finite verb for the participle in the second of the contrasted members of it. If the ellipses were filled up and the construction simplified it would run thus: *οἶδα γὰρ πολλοὺς σεμνοὺς γεγῶτας καὶ οὕτω δύσκειαν κτησαμένους, τοὺς μὲν ἀπ' ὀμμάτων—τοὺς ἐν θυραίοις σεμνοὺς γεγῶτας—τοὺς δὲ ῥαθυμῖα καὶ ἀφ' ἡσύχου ποδός.* We may paraphrase thus. Distant manners make people unpopular; they arise from two different faults of character, first (*ἀπ' ὀμμάτων*) from a habit of taking up dislikes at sight and without inquiry, which prevents a man, who goes into society, from making acquaintances, and secondly (*ἀφ' ἡσύχου ποδός καὶ ῥαθυμῖα*) from mere indolence and sedentary ways, which keep him out of society altogether. It must be remembered that Greek houses were very small and the ordinary course of life was carried on in the agora, the palaestra, and other public places.

215. *σεμνοὺς.* *σεμνότης* is the opposite of affability. Cf. *Hipp.* 93 foll., *τὸ σεμνὸν καὶ τὸ μὴ πᾶσιν φίλον*, where the *σεμνός* is contrasted with the *εὐπροσήγορος* (*affable man*).

τοὺς μὲν ὀμμάτων ἀπό. We must supply in thought both *σεμνοὺς γεγῶτας* and *δύσκειαν κτησαμένους*; it is the eye, or its rash judgments, which causes both the unamiable bearing and the consequent dislike.

216. *ἐν θυραίοις.* After *γίγνεσθαι* (or *εἶναι*) *σεμνός, θρασύς, ὑβριστής, χρηστός* and the like, in the sense of *to behave distantly, boldly, insolently, kindly, &c.*, the preposition *ἐν* with the dative is used of the person towards whom the behaviour is shown (see *Soph. Ai.* 1092, 1315, *Ant.* 661).

ἀφ' ἡσύχου ποδός. This concrete symbol of indolence (*ῥαθυμῖα*) is named in order to make a neat antithesis to *ἀπ' ὀμμάτων*.

217. *ῥαθυμῖα*, causal dative.

219. *βροτῶν ὄστις*, the general relative with plural antecedent; cf. *Androm.* 180, *στέργουσιν ὄστις μὴ κακῶς οἰκεῖν θέλει*, *he who desires a comfortable home is wont to show affection.*

[The above explanation of this passage, which after much tribulation I really believe that I now understand, will be found to differ slightly from that given in my larger edition.

(1) I have adopted the correction of R. Meister, to which I was before strongly inclined, *τοὺς ἐν θυραίοις* for *τοὺς δ' ἐν θυραίοις*. The antithesis made by the mss. reading between *τοὺς ὀμμάτων ἀπο* and *τοὺς ἐν θυραίοις*, with which for want of

knowing better I did what I could, is unmanageable and blocks out the plain correlation between *ὀμμάτων ἄπο* and *ἀπὸ ποδός*.

(2) I have followed Prof. Kennedy (*Studia Sophoclea*, preface, p. xvi) as to the ellipse of *δύσκειαν κτησαμένους*. I cannot excuse myself for having forgotten it.

(3) I have ventured a very small correction of my own, *ῥαθυμία* for the mss. *ῥαθυμίαν*. This both clears up the logic of the passage—the *δύσκειαν* being thus throughout the same, the ill-repute attaching to *σεμνότης*—and also removes the necessity for forcing *ἐκτήσαντο* to bear two meanings at once: *κτήσασθαι δύσκειαν* and *κτήσασθαι ῥαθυμίαν* are both good in themselves, but they are not parallel expressions and should not be yoked together. The perception of this has led others to attack *δύσκειαν*, which, however, cannot be spared and has proved refractory against expulsion; neither *δυσκολίαν* (!) nor even *δύσνοιαν* can be called happy. The confusion of the dative *-αι* with the accusative *-αν*, everywhere common, is here prepared for the copyist by the order of the words. For the separation of *ἀφ' ἡσυχου ποδός...καὶ ῥαθυμίας*, cf. 496, *ἦς...καὶ γονάτων*, 503, *οὗς...καὶ πάτραν*.]

222—224. These lines contain the condemnation of *σεμνοὶ ῥαθυμία*, those who from self-indulgence (*αὐθαδία*) will not be at the trouble to make themselves pleasant to others, as 219—221 that of the *σεμνοὶ ἀπ' ὀμμάτων*, those whose unpleasant behaviour arises from their hasty prejudices.

222. *κάρτα* emphasizes *ξένον*, a stranger in particular.

προσχωρεῖν πόλει. *πόλις* here is the aggregate of the *πολίται*. Cf. Aesch. *Supp.* 271, *μακρὰν ῥῆσιν οὐ στέργει πόλις*. *προσχωρεῖν*, meet both in a literal and a metaphorical sense. Cf. our phrase *to meet a person half-way*.

223. *οὐδ' ἀστὸν ἦνεσα*, nor do I (by saying *ξένον μὲν κάρτα*) thereby commend a native. In referring to words just spoken we use the present, the Greeks generally the aorist.

224. *ἀμαθίας ὕπο* is connected both with *γεγώς* and with *ἔστιν*. *ἀμαθία* is properly the absence of training or discipline, and its results, either intellectual dullness, *ignorance*, or moral dullness, *insensibility, want of feeling*, the latter sense being in Euripides much more common. Thus it is the *ἀμαθής* who ill-treats his offspring (*H. F.* 347), *ἀμαθὲς ὕνειδος* is an unfeeling (*indelicate*) reproach, *Iph. A.* 999, *ἀμαθὲς φρόνημα*, *unfeeling pride*, *Herakl.* 459. Nearest to the present passage is *Phoen.* 396, the exile must bear *τὰς τῶν κρατούντων ἀμαθίας*, the discourtesies of the powerful.

225. *προσπεσὼν*, see *προσπίπτω*.

226. *διέφθαρκα*, see *διαφθείρω*. *οἴχομαι* metaphorical.

227. μεθείσα, see μεθίημι.

228. Constr. ἐν-ὧ-γιγνώσκειν-καλῶς ἦν μοι πάντα, οὐμὸς πόσις. *One, of whom to judge aright was all to me, my husband, has, &c.* ἐν, properly in the case of: cf. ἀμαρτάνειν ἐν τινι, σφάλ-
λασθαι ἐν τινι, to be wrong or disappointed about. With πάντ' εἶναι compare πάντ' ἔχειν, 570. The terrible importance to a woman of her final choice is the subject of the lines which follow 230—38.

231. φυτόν, creature.

232. χρημάτων ὑπερβολῇ. Her dower. Euripides transfers the customs of his own times to those more ancient times when in reality the husband paid for the wife.

234. *For as for not accepting a husband at all, that is more grievous still.* An answer to the question raised by the previous line, why the woman should accept a husband on such disadvantageous terms. For the emphatic position of the negative in antithesis, cf. 1230. The mss. give this line thus, λαβεῖν, κακοῦ γὰρ τοῦδ' ἀλγιον κακόν, with several variations for τόδ, as τοῦτ', τοῦτο γ', τοῦδ' ἔτ' &c. Another correction is λαβεῖν κακοῦ γὰρ τοῦτ' ἔτ' ἀλγιον κακόν, for this (τὸ δεσπότην σώματος λαβεῖν) is a worse evil than the other (τὸ πόσιν πρίασθαι).

235. *And the important issue lies (ἔστιν) in taking a bad one or a good one.* ἡ κακὸν λαβεῖν ἢ χρηστόν is in apposition to τῷδε.

237. ἀνήνασθαι, see ἀναίνομαι.

238—42. The metaphorical phrases of this passage are taken from the riding-school, the husband being regarded as an unfamiliar creature whose ways and paces the wife has to learn. Note χρῆσθαι to manage, cf. Xen. *Symp.* 2. 10, νομί-
ζουσιν, ἦν τοὺς θυμοειδεῖς ἵππους δύνωνται κατέχειν, ῥαδίως τοῖς γε ἄλλοις ἵπποις χρῆσθαι, and ἐκπονεῖσθαι to practise any gymnastic exercise, and φέρων ζύγον.

239. μὴ μαθούσαν οἴκοθεν, not bringing the lesson learnt from her old home. Cf. *Phoen.* 234, τὸν οἴκοθεν νέμον σέβουσα.

240. ὅτῳ, wherewith (so mss.), with what instrument or bridle, as it were. Others ὅπως, which would be more usual. The dependent question ὅτῳ...ξυνευνέτη is governed by μάντιν εἶναι = μαντεύεσθαι. Others take ὅτῳ with ξυνευνέτη *what thing the husband is whom she is to manage*: but this in prose, and probably also in ordinary dialogue-verse, would require the article (τῷ ξυνευνέτη).

241. εὖ, patiently, may be constructed either with ἐκπο-
ρουμέναις or with ξυνοικῇ. The rhythm favours the first.

242. βίᾳ, reluctantly.

243. **ζηλωτός**, *worth caring for*; **ζηλώ** signifies both *to envy* and *to covet*. Cf. *Hek.* 255, ὄσοι δημηγόρους ζηλοῦτε τιμάς. Supply *ἐστί*.

246. A spurious line. The lengthening of the vowel by position before *τρ* in ἤλικα τραπέεις is not permissible.

250. **στήναι παρ' ἀσπίδα**, *to stand in the line of battle*, lit. *up to shield*. The shields were held so as to make a continuous cover.

252. **ἀλλά... γάρ**, formula for self-interruption. Cf. 1301. *But (enough); for &c.* **αὐτός κ.τ.λ.** *the same language suits not*. Cf. *προσῆκειν*.

254. **βίου**, either *life* or more probably (see on 194) *wealth, comfort*, closely connected with the *πατρὸς δόμοι* of the preceding line.

256. **λεησμένῃ**. *ληίζω* from *ληΐς* *spoil*. It is the burden of Medea's complaint that she is treated by Jason as a mere captive, a piece of booty, without right or position.

257. Constr. οὐκ ἔχουσα... συγγενῇ μεθορμίσασθαι τῆσδε συμφορᾶς, *having no... kinsman [in whom] to find harbour [of refuge] from this distress*. The compounded *μετα-* governs the genitive *τῆσδε συμφορᾶς*, the preposition signifying change (as in *μεταβάλλειν, μεταγιγνώσκειν*), and the genitive that from which the change is made.

258. **συμφορᾶς**. So we speak of 'a ship in distress.' Cf. *Hipp.* 765, χαλεπᾶ ὑπέραντλος οὔσα συμφορᾶ, *sinking (lit. water-logged) in sore distress*.

259. **ὄδν** connects this line in thought with 252. 'As you and I are so different in fortune that perfect sympathy is impossible—*this much then I shall be content to receive of you.*' **βουλήσομαι**, cf. *Hipp.* 517, ὄνασθαι μὴ μαθεῖν βούλον, *be content to be blessed without comprehending*, and for the tense *Soph. O. C.* 1289, καὶ ταῦτ' ἀφ' ὑμῶν, ὦ ξένοι, βουλήσομαι κυρεῖν ἐμοί.

261. Constr. *τίσασθαι πόσῳ δίκην* (*cause my husband to pay penalty*) ἀντὶ τῶνδε κακῶν. See *τινω*.

262 is not good Greek, **γαμῶ** being used of the man, **γαμοῦμαι** of the woman only. Some read ἡ τ' ἐγγήματο, *and her who married (him)*, but probably the line, like 42, is interpolated.

263. **σιγᾶν** in apposition to *τοσοῦτον*. **πλία**, see **πλέως**.

264. Constr. *κακῇ* (*a coward*) ἐς ἀλκὴν καὶ κακῇ εἰσορᾶν explanatory infinitive) *σιδῆρον*. Supply *ἐστί* here and in 263.

265. ὅταν ἡδικημένη κυρῆ, *in the hour when she has been wronged*. This is the force of κυρῆ (*chances to be wronged*); it contrasts the temporary and *accidental* fierceness with the usual softness. Cf. Aesch. *Eum.* 726, ἄλλως τε πάντως χῶτε δεόμενος τύχοι, *above all in the moment of his need*, Soph. *El.* 794, νῦν εὐτυχούσα τυγχάνεις, *this is thine hour of prosperity*.

267. ἐκτίσει (ἱ). See ἐκτίνω and cf. 261.

268. They accept with sympathy her apologies (see 225) for her reluctance to meet them. πενθεῖν signifies *to behave as a mourner*, it being the custom in times of mourning not to receive strangers. See *Alk.* 751.

269. καὶ emphasizes the approach of the king as something new and important. Others ὁρῶ δ' ἐκεῖ, *but I see yonder*.

272. εἶπον. See on 64.

274. βραβεύς, *umpire*, or *present judge*. βραβεύς, usually an umpire in athletic contests, signifies one who gives an immediate decision on the spot. Hence it is applied to one who awards a decision and sees it executed, as here, and sometimes, like the Latin *arbiter*, to a mere witness or spectator. λόγου, genitive of respect, *in this sentence*.

278. ἐξιάσι...κάλων, *are now letting out all rope*, i.e. are bearing down upon me full sail. Cf. *Herc. Fur.* 837, ἔλαννε, κίνει, φόνιον ἐξίει κάλων, Aristoph. *Eq.* 756, νῦν δὴ σε πάντα δεῖ κάλων ἐξιέναι σεαυτοῦ. δὴ, *now*.

279. *And there is no approachable landing-place in distress*. εὐπρόσοιστος, from προσφέρεισθαι, *to bear towards, approach*. Cf. δυσπρόσοιστος, *hard of access, repellent in manner*. ἔκβασις, properly the act and hence the place of 'stepping-out' or disembarking. It must not be translated by *escape*. ἄτης has practically the force of an adjective, *belonging to* (i.e. proper to be used in) *calamity*.

280. καὶ κακῶς πάσχουσα, *though I am used cruelly*, i.e. 'I will ask, though to seek reasons from cruelty is superfluous'. Cf. *Tro.* 898, ἀτὰρ σχεδὸν μὲν οἰδᾶ σοι στυγνομένη ὄμως δ' ἐρέσθαι βούλομαι. For ἐρήσομαι see ἔρομαι. ὄμως, connected with ἐρήσομαι, is not necessary, but is often added after a concessive phrase.

282. παραμπέχειν λόγους. Lit. 'to miswrap words', i.e. *to deceive you with a cloke of words*, παρὰ importing departure *aside* from the truth as in *παραπειῖν, παραπατᾶν*.

284. ξυμβάλλεται τοῦδε δειμάτος, *are contributories of this fear*, the genitive depending upon the partitive sense involved in the verb.

288. Regular construction would require τὸν δόντα (θυγατέρα εἰς γάμον) καὶ τὸν γήμαντα καὶ τὴν γαμουμένην.

290. ἀπεχθίσθαι, see ἀπεχθάνομαι. Supply ἐστὶ.

291. μεταστένειν, *repent*, lit. 'sigh late'. For the repetition of idea in ὕστερον μετα- cf. *Irh. A.* 343, μεταβαλὼν ἄλλους τρόπους, 363, μεταβαλὼν ἄλλας γραφάς. Others, with the mss. μέγα στένειν, *sigh loud*.

292—306. See the *Analysis*.

294. ἀρτίφρων, properly of *equal-sided mind* or as we say 'well-balanced'. Cf. ἀρτίχειρ, ἀρτίπους, ἀρτιμελής, *having the use of both hands, feet, limbs*. The word is opposed here to περισσῶς σοφούς, *over-learned on one side*; cf. the contrast of ἄρτιος *even* and περισσός *odd* (lit. *one-sided*) as applied to numbers.

295. ἐκδιδάσκεισθαι, *causative middle, have them taught*. The adj. σοφούς expresses the result of the process ἐιδάσκεισθαι. This use is called πρόληψις or 'anticipation'.

296. χωρὶς...ἀργίας, *besides and beyond the unprofitableness which belongs to them*. ἄλλης is superfluous and merely repeats the force of χωρὶς (see the *Lexicon* under ἄλλος). ἀργίας. Money or other property was said to be ἀργός (ἀ-εργον) *idle* when not invested or bringing in no return: ἀργία here has the same sense. ἦς for ἣν, the relative being attracted into the case of the antecedent. ἀργίαν ἔχειν, *to have* (the quality of) *unproductiveness* = ἀργός εἶναι. We do not use *to have* in this way, but with ἔχειν it is common.

297. ἀλφάνουσι, *they purchase*. ἀλφάνειν properly = *to fetch* (a price). The word is chosen to keep up the commercial metaphor implied in ἀργία, education being thus estimated merely by what it will 'fetch'. The tone of this passage, reflecting the views of the 'practical man', is bitterly ironical.

298. προσφέρων, *importing as a kind of merchandise*. In the time of Euripides learning was chiefly diffused by travelling professors, the σοφισταί or so-called 'sophists'.

299. The ignorant, not seeing the value of your new learning (κατὰ σοφά), and seeing only that you do not teach the learning which they recognize, will suppose you simply unpractical and unlearned. Cf. 305.

303. τοῖς μὲν = τοῖς δοκοῦσιν εἰδ. τι ποικ., the pretenders to special knowledge. τοῖς δὲ = τοῖς σκαλοῖς, the ignorant public, *to others I am hard to please and not so very wise (after all)*, cf. 299. προσάντης = our borrowed French *difficile*. Cf. Xen. *Apol.* 33, ὥσπερ οὐκ ἦν πρὸς τὰλλα τὰγαθὰ προσάντης. The ignorant complain that the discoverer of new science is not satisfied

with 'what was good enough for our fathers'. Or, according to another view, *προσάντης* = *hard to deal with, disagreeable*, cf. Hdt. vii. 160, *προσάντης λόγος, a difficult proposition*. The reading of 305 is taken from a paraphrase in an ancient commentary *ἐναντία εἰμι τοῖς ἀπαιδέυτοις καὶ οὐκ ἄγαν σοφῆ*. The mss. give *τοῖσδ' αὖ προσάντης· εἰμι δ' οὐκ ἄγαν σοφῆ*.

[304 closely resembles 808, and can scarcely be genuine here as it stands; the exact reading of these lines 303—5 is uncertain, but the text represents the sense, or something near it.]

308. *ἔξαμαρτάνειν ἐς*, to pick a quarrel with, go 'out of my way', as we say, to offend.

310. *ὄτω*, supply *ἐκδῶσθαι αὐτήν*.

314. *ἡδικημένοι*. The plural gives the expression a general bearing: *we* = I and mine. In such a case masculine adjectives are used, even if the speaker is a woman, the distinctiveness of the feminine not being appropriate to a mixed class of persons. Cf. *σοφοὶ* 385.

315. *κρεισσόνων*, genitive after the comparative implied in *νικώμενοι* = *ἤσσομεν ὄντες*.

316. *ἔσω φρενῶν βουλεύης*, together. The words *ἔσω φρενῶν* are put out of their place for the sake of emphasis. In English this effect would be given by the voice.

ἀκούσαι, explanatory infinitive after *μαλθακά*.

319. Constr. *ἀνὴρ* (or *γυνή*) *σοφός, δεξιόθυμος ὦν, ῥάων φυλάσσειν ἐστὶν ἢ σιωπηλὸς ὦν*: cunning is more easily watched in a quick temper than in a reserved. *φυλάσσειν*, explanatory infinitive after *ῥάων*. Observe carefully that it is *φυλάσσειν* not *φυλάσσεσθαι*.

322. *ἄραρε*, see *ἀραρίσκω*.

323. *μενείς*, future (observe the accent). 'A device how you shall remain' = *a device whereby to remain*.

324. Constr. *πρὸς γονάτων σε* (*αἰτοῦμαι*). See on 65.

325. Sometimes, particularly in dialogue of alternate lines (*στιχομυθία*), the sentences of two speakers are grammatically continuous, the persons of the verbs and pronouns only being altered. So here Kreon might have said *οὐ γὰρ ἂν πείσαις, ἀλλ' ἐξελῶ σε κ.τ.λ.* This continuation of his words is thrown by Medea into the form of a question. So in the next line *φιλῶ γὰρ* stands as if *οὐκ αἰδέσομαι* had preceded—(*I will*), *for*, etc., and in 329, *πλὴν γὰρ*, as after *μείαν ἔχεις*—(*Doubtless*) *for*, etc. *πείσαις*: the regular form in Attic prose and the usual form in Attic poetry of the 1st aor. opt. act., 2nd and 3rd pers. sing.

is -ειας, -ειε. The forms in -αις, αι are older. ἐξελᾶς, contracted from ἐξελάσεις: see ἐξελαύνω.

329. Constr. πατρίς γάρ ἐστι πολὺ φίλτατον (*far the dearest thing*) πλὴν τέκνων ἔμοιγε. Kreon implies a censure on Medea's flight from Kolchis; in πλὴν τέκνων he is thinking of his anxiety for his daughter.

330. ἔρωτες, *love* in general.

331. The sentence is elliptical, and in full would be ἡ κακὸν μέγα ἢ ἀγαθὸν μέγα, ὅπως (*according as*) ἂν παραστῶσιν τύχαι, ἢ κακῇ ἢ ἀγαθῇ. Kreon is mentally comparing with the fate of Medea the prosperous love of his daughter and Jason; Medea understands him and invokes a curse on it. καὶ must be omitted; we say *so also* in comparisons, the Greeks either *so also* or *as also*.

332. *Let not him, who is the author of these woes, escape thee.* Observe that τῶνδε...κακῶν is an *adjectival* sentence, not a dependent interrogative.

333. μ' ἀπάλλαξον πόνων, *spare my pains*, i.e. save me the trouble of forcing you away by going quietly yourself.

334. *I have my own pains* (ἡμεῖς emphatic) *and need no more.* 'I have not so little trouble nor you', she implies, 'so much, that I can be expected to save you any at my expense'. She wishes to mark the brutality of Kreon's tone, considering the relative positions of the two.

335. ὡσθήσει, see ὡθέω.

338. τοῦτο: accusative of respect (*as to that*) after τυχεῖν σοῦ (= 'to obtain your grace'). Or, according to others, accusative after τυχεῖν, σοῦ depending on ἰκέτευσα.

339. MSS. τί δ' οὖν or τί δ' αὖ. ἀπαλλάσσει χερός, *let go my hand*, to which (see *Analysis*) she is clinging. MSS. χθονός. This emendation (Wilamowitz) has been brought to my notice since the publication of my larger edition. I have placed it in the text (though I do not consider it demonstrably right) for the relation of the verbs βιάζει κοῦκ ἀπαλλάσσει suggests, if it does not require, that they should be more closely connected in sense than in the MSS. reading.

341. ἡ φευξοῦμεθα, *the manner of our exile*, cf. τῆδε, ταύτη, *in this manner*; this phrase forms the object to the verbal phrase ξυμπερᾶναι-φροντίδα. The future of φεύγω is regularly φεύξομαι, rarely φευξοῦμαι.

342. ἀφορμῆν=*means* to 'start' upon (ὀρμάω). So the capital used in carrying on a business was called the ἀφορμή.

345. Probably an interpolation. *εἰκός*, not *εἰκός ἐστίν*, is the use of Euripides. Supply *εἰ art* in 344.

348. *τούμόν* = *ἐγώ*, *my interest for me*.

349. *αἰδεῖσθαι*, *to show mercy*. Cf. 326. *διέφθορα*. Another form of the perfect of *διαφθείρω* (cf. 226), *I have spoilt*.

351. *τεύξει*, see *τυγχάνω*. *προυννέπω* contracted from *προεννέπω*.

352. *θεοῦ*—*Ἡλίου*.

ἡ ἐπ-ιοῦσα, *the after-coming or succeeding*.

354. *λέλεκται*. The verb *λέγω* has two perfects passive, *λέλεγμαι* and *εἰλεγμαι*, corresponding respectively to its two meanings *say* and *collect*. Observe that neither of these is the common prose Attic for *have been said*, which is expressed by *εἶρημαι*, the perf. passive of the same verb which supplies the fut. active *ἐρῶ*, *I shall say*; see 364.

356. Supply *in so short a time*.

358. *μελέα ἀχέων*. See on 96.

359. *τίνα προξενίαν κ.τ.λ.* *To what protection, etc.* A verb governing these accusatives must be supplied from *ποῖ ποτε τρέψει*; cf. *Phoen.* 977, *ποῖ δῆτα φεύγω; τίνα πόδων; τίνα ξένων*; In the mss. *ἐξευρήσεις*, *will you discover*, an ill chosen word, is inserted after 360 to simplify the construction. Another reading is *πρὸς ξενίαν*.

360. *σωτήρα*, the fem. form is commonly *σωτεῖρα*, *σωτεῖραν*, but cf. *El.* 993, *τιμὰς σωτήρας*.

365. Constr. *ταῦτα οὔτι πῶ (ἐστι) ταύτη*, *it is not yet by any means come to that*, viz. desperation. So in *Aristoph. Eq.* 843, *οὐκ, ὠγαθοί, ταῦτ' ἐστὶ πῶ ταύτη, μὰ τὸν Πιοσειδῶ*.

368. *θωπεῦσαι ἄν*, together. *τόνδε*. She points to the place where he stood.

370. *χεροῖν*, instrumental dative.

371. *μωρίας*, *weakness*, exaggerated sentiment; see on 61.

372. *ξῶν*, see 448. *ἐλεῖν*, *arrest, stop*, see *αἰρέω*.

373. *ἀφήκεν*, *remitted*; others *ἐφήκεν*, *permitted*.

375. Observe that this plan is modified in the sequel.

377. *ἐγχειρῶ*, deliberative subjunctive, *I am to, etc.* The tense is changed in *ὑφάψω* and *ᾤσω* (*ᾤθλω*) merely because the actions are instantaneous: *ὑφάπτω* would mean *be about lighting*.

382. ὑπερβαίνουσα, *overpassing*, i.e. entering.

384. τὴν εὐθείαν, supply ὁδόν. τὴν...ὁδόν is in apposition to ἡ...ἐλεῖν. *Best take the obvious way—to slay them, as we are most skilled to do, by poison.* We, i.e. we Colchians or we descendants of the Sun, hence the masc. σοφοί. See on 314. mss. σοφαί, which would refer the remark to the female sex; but it is then hardly true. Circe, the other “daughter of the Sun,” was, like Medea, a great φαρμακίς: the power of the sun in creating and distilling, as it were, the juices of plants is probably the origin of this legend. See on 963.

386. καὶ δὴ τεθνάσι. *Suppose them, then, dead.* Lit. ‘and now they are dead’.

392. *If a helpless misfortune exiles me, that is apparently ‘if when my exile comes I am without a plan’.*

394. τὸ καρτερόν τόλμης, *the bold (path, supplied from εἶμι) of daring.* She pursues the metaphor of the πολλαὶ ἑδοί, see 376, 391.

396. ξυνεργὸν εἰλόμην Ἑκάτην, the triple goddess, ‘Proserpina Luna Diana’, in her function as the moon, by whose light Medea gathered the enchanted herbs, that did renew old Æson’ (*Merch. of Venice*, v. 1). The association of the weird moonlight with magical rites is easily understood.

399. πικρούς σφιν θήσω γάμους, *will make the marriage cost them dear.* Cf. *Bacch.* 357, ὡς ἀν...θάνη πικρὰν βάκχευσιν ἐν Οἰθήβαις ἰδῶν, etc.

400. κῆδος. Cf. 367.

403. ἔρπ’ ἐς τὸ δαινόν, *go up to the peril, i.e. face it.* εὐν... εὐψυχίας, cf. *Aesch. Pers.* 405, εὐν ὑπὲρ πάντων ἀγῶν.

404. ὀφλεῖν, see ὀφλισκάνω.

405. Σισυφέλιος γάμους. From Sisyphus, the founder of the royal house of Corinth, cf. *Hom. Il.* vi. 152, ἔστι πόλις Ἐφύρης (former name of Corinth) μυχῷ Ἄργεος ἰπποβότοιο· ἐνθα δὲ Σίσυφος ἔσκεν (was, lived) ὁ κέρδιστος γένει’ ἀνδρῶν, Σίσυφος Αἰολίδης· ὁ δ’ ἄρα Γλαῦκον τέκεθ’ υἱόν κ.τ.λ. The γάμους was *Sisyrhean* in two senses, first as contracted with a princess of that house, and also as worthy of the κέρδιστος ἀνδρῶν himself. So the crafty Ulysses is called by way of reproach τὸ Σισυφείων σπέρμα *Iph. A.* 524, and ὁ τὰς ἀσώτου Σισυφιδᾶν γενεᾶς *Soph. Ai.* 190. The dative γάμους is causal. τοῖσδ’. mss. τοῖς τ’.

410. See the *Analysis*. ἄνω χωροῦσι παγαί, *the fountain runs up*, a proverbial expression for a complete change in the natural order of things, signifying here that the treachery commonly attributed to woman is transferred to man. Fountains

and rivers, with all other elemental things such as πῦρ, γῆ, ἔμβροσ, etc., bore the epithet ἱερός, *sacred* or *mystic*.

411. **δικὰ καὶ πάντα**, *order and the universe*. *δίκη*, properly *want* or *custom*, whence the phrase *δικὴν τινός*, *like* (after the way of) *a thing*. The common (later) meaning, *justice*, does not seem appropriate here.

412. *'Tis men whose counsels are treacherous and their sacred oath no longer sure*. **ἀνδράσι**, emphatic, 'man, instead of woman'. Observe that *μὲν* in this line is answered by *τὸν δ' ἐμῶν*, not by *θεῶν δέ*. **θεῶν πίστις**, *the gods' pledge*, i.e. the pledge taken by men in their name.

415. Constr. *φᾶμαι δὲ στρέψουσι τὸν ἐμὸν βιοτὸν [ᾧστε] εὐκλειαν ἔχειν*, *legend shall bring my estate into* (convert it so as to be in) *good repute*, i.e. poets shall write in praise of woman's truth instead of inveighing against her treachery. By *my estate* or *condition of life* is signified womanhood. For *εὐκλειαν ἔχειν* see on 296.

417. **τιμὰ**, *compensation* (lit. *payment*) for unjust reproach in the past. So in Soph. *Ant.* 699, *οὐχ ἦδε χρυσῆς ἀξία τιμῆς (reward) λαχέειν*; and elsewhere: cf. *τιμῶν* in 660.

418. **οὐκέτι ἔξει**, *will hold no longer*, i.e. *will let go*.

420. It was the fashion of the ancient bards or reciters (*αἰδοί*), whose ill-treatment of women is here rebuked, to commence a poem by inviting the muses to 'begin' it, and to end by inviting them to 'cease from' (*λήγειν*) or 'close' it. See for instance Hesiod's *Theogonia* 48, *ἀρχόμεναι θ' ἕμνευσι θεαὶ λήγουσὶ τ' αἰοδῆς*. Hence the use of the phrase *λήξουσ' αἰοιδᾶν* here in the different sense of 'abandon altogether' is a sort of parody, and for the same reason the Ionic contraction *ἕμνευσαι* (for *ἕμνέουσαι*) is used instead of the regular Attic *ἕμνοῦσαι*, as belonging to the dialect in which the poems of the *αἰοιδῶν* (for example the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*) were written. The double construction of *λήγειν* with the genitive and with the participle is also Homeric.

παλαιγενέων, *long-descended*, i.e. traditional. *ἕμνευσαι* has a double sense, either 'celebrating in song', or 'repeating frequently'; cf. the English *harping upon*. We have a specimen of these invectives against women in Hesiod (*Theog.* 591).

423. **ἐν ἀμετέρα γνώμα ᾧπασε**, *put into woman's mind the gift of*, cf. *Iph. A.* 584, *ὃς τὰς Ἑλένας ἐν ἀντωπίοις βλεφάροισιν ἔρωτα δέδωκας*. Here again we have a Homeric phrase (see last note), cf. Hom. *Od.* viii. 498, *ὡς ἄρα τοι (to thee, the bard Demodokos) πρόφρων θεὸς ᾧπασε θέσπιν αἰοιδῆν*.

426. **ἀντάχησ' ἄν** = *ἀντήχησα ἄν*. The condition *εἰ Φοῖβος ᾧπασεν αἰοιδῆν* must be supplied from the previous sentence. *I*

should have sung an answering strain to (that of) the male breed, i.e. we women would have attacked men in poetry as they have attacked us.

428. Constr. *ἔχει πολλὰ εἰπεῖν*, has much to say of, i.e. furnishes abundant material for attacking. *ἀμετέραν* (sc. *γυναικῶν*) *μοῖραν*, the women's division of the human race; *μοῖρα* here = *μέρος*, with which it is connected in etymology. Cf. *Supp.* 244. For *μὲν...τε* see on 125.

431. *Thou didst quit for a ship thy father's house.* So Helen in Aesch. *Ag.* 690 flies with Paris quitting her silken curtains, *ἐκ τῶν ἀβροπῆγων προκαλυμμάτων ἐπλευσε.*

432. *ὄρισσασα*, having parted off, i.e. left behind, or perhaps having divided, i.e. passed between. *πέτρας*, see 2. *πόντου*, the Main; see on 212.

435. *Having lost the bed where thou liest husbandless*, lit. of thy husbandless lying. It has been proposed to avoid the difficulty of this expression by reading *χθονί τῆς ἀνανδρος*, *κοίτας ἰλέσασα λέκτρων*, where *τῆς* is relative referring to *χθονί* and depending upon *ἐλαύνει*, and *κοίτας* is plural.

438. There is probably an allusion in these lines to the disturbed state of Hellas at the time (431 B.C.) of the production of the play and the dissolution of political connexions which led up to and accompanied the Peloponnesian war. *χάρμς*, the spell or charm, i.e. the power to bind. *βέβακε* = *βέβηκε*, see *βαίνω*.

439. *In all the breadth of Hellas.* *ἀνέπτα* = *ἀνέπτῃ*, see *ἀναπέτομαι*.

440. Constr. *δόμῃ οὐ πάρα* (= *πάρεισι*) *μεθορμίσασθαι μόχθων*. For the construction of the two last words cf. 258. *πάρα* (observe the accent) stands often for *πάρεστι*, more rarely, as here, for the plural.

442. *σῶν λέκτρων κρείσσων*, the conqueror of thy charms.

445. *ἐπέστα* = *ἐπέστη*, here a strict passive, *was set over*. Observe the use of this aor. and of *ἀνέπτῃ* in 440; as in both cases the effect of the action still continues we should in English naturally use a perfect or present, *is set over*.

446. *ἸΑΣΩΝ*. See the story and *Analysis* in the Introduction.

447. *ὀργῆν*, *humour* or *temper* (not *passion*), cf. 176.

448. *παρόν*, acc. absolute, *it being possible for you*, i.e. *when you might have*, etc. In the same way are used *δέον*, *προσῆκον* (*it being right*) and some other participles. Cf. *ἐξὸν* 372.

450. *For the sake of foolish words, i.e. rather than forego the pleasure of uttering them.*

453. Supply to ἀ the antecedent *τούτων* (*for that*) depending upon *ζημιουμένη*.

454. πᾶν κέρδος ἡγοῦ τὸ φνυγῆ μόνον ζημιοῦσθαι.

456. ἀφῆρουν, *used to check*, cf. ἐλείν in 385.

457. ἀνίεις, contracted from ἀνίεις, impf. from ἀνίημι formed as if from ἀνιέω; cf. ἐτίθεις from τίθημι. μωρίας, *passion*; see on 61.

458. ἐκπεσεῖ. ἐκπίπτω is regularly used as the passive of ἐκβάλλω, *to expel, banish*.

459. κακ τῶνδε, *even after all this*. οὐκ ἀπειρηκῶς φίλοις, *not wearied of my goodwill*, lit. *by those I love*. ἀπαγορεύειν, ἀπερεῖν, ἀπειπεῖν, ἀπειρηκέναι, etc. = *to cry off*, and so *to give way, be exhausted*.

460. τόσον γε. Others τὸ σὸν δὴ προσκοπούμενος, *provident, as you know (δὴ), in your behalf*. MSS. τὸ σὸν δὲ οἱ τὸ σὸν γε.

466. This passage has been garbled. 466 is scarcely intelligible as it stands. It purports to be an explanation of τούτο in 465, *for that* (viz. παγκάκιστε) *is the greatest reproach that I can speak with my tongue against your unmanliness*, but it is open to many objections, particularly the emphatic position of the useless word γλώσση. No satisfactory correction has been proposed. The line is not necessary at all (the remark *for that I may call you* may be referred to Jason's permission in 452 of the particular epithet κάκιστος which Medea uses), and is probably an interpolation.

467. γεγῶς, see 215.

468. Interpolated from 1324.

469. It is possible to take θράσος and εὐτολμία either as words of praise (*courage, bravery*) contrasted with ἀναίδεια, or as milder synonyms of ἀναίδεια itself. *This (conduct) is no mere assurance or hardihood, it is that worst of man's diseases, loss of shame*. This latter way is favoured by the use of θράσος which has always either a neutral or a bad sense.

470 is not metrical, having no caesura. The quasi-caesura δρᾶσαντ' ἐναντίον is not admitted in this play. It was probably inserted to explain τόδε, as 466 to explain τούτο.

475. On the allusions here see the story in the Introduction.

476. A verse unpleasant from the repetition of the letter σ. For this and other such Euripides was satirised by the contemporary comedians.

478. **ζεύλαισι ταύρων** (*a yoke of bulls*) is constructed with **ἐπιστάτην** as if it were a participle (**ἐπιστατήσοντα**, like **σπεροῦντα**) and this in turn depends upon **πεμφθέντα**, *sent as breaker*, i.e. *sent to break*. **ἐπιστάτης** was the technical term for a professional trainer or breaker-in of draught animals. See Plato, *Apol.* 20 A.

480. **ἀμπέχων**, *surrounding*. Others **ἀμφέπων**, *tending*.

482. **ἀνέσχον** may be either transitive *raised*, or intransitive *rose*. Probably the first. **φάος**, metaphorical.

485. **πρόθυμος...σοφώτερα**. This inaccurate use of the comparative was probably colloquial and confined in writing to certain familiar phrases. Cf. Hdt. III. 65, **ἐποίησα ταχύτερα ἢ σοφώτερα**.

486. See the story in the Introduction. **ὥσπερ** is explained by **παίδων ὑπ' αὐτοῦ**.

487. **πάντα δ' ἐξείλον φόβον**, and *I beguiled (or diverted) all their fears*. Cf. *Phoen.* 991, **ὡς εἶ πατρὸς ἐξείλον φόβον**, *how cleverly I beguiled my father's fears* by a false story. The genitive **αὐτῶν**, governed by **ἐξ-**, must be supplied from **παίδων**. Others supply **σοῦ**.

488. **ἡμῶν**. She identifies the cause of her children with her own.

489. **ἐκτήσω**, 1 aor. midd. 2nd pers. sing. See **κτάομαι**.

494. **θεσμὰ**, irregular plural of **θεσμός**: cf. **δίφρα**, **κύκλα**, **κέλευθα**, **δεσμά**, **σίτα**. Another reading is **θέσμι ἀνθρώποις**.

496. The expression is a variety for **φεῦ δεξιὰ χεῖρ καὶ τάδε γόνατα, ὧν σὺ ἐλαμβάνου**. **πολλὰ**, *often*, cf. 579.

497. **χρῶζεω**, to touch the surface of a thing, *feel, handle*, here signifies in a contemptuous way the false and unmeaning action of the suppliant Jason (see on 65) making his vows of gratitude.

500. *Although I do not think to obtain any kindness from you*. The rhetorical question standing for the negative (*What do I think?* for *I do not think*, cf. 565) is in English possible only in the principal clause; in Greek it may stand also in a dependent clause, such as the participial **δοκοῦσα...καλῶς** here. **γε** throws an indignant emphasis upon **σοῦ**.

502. **τράπωμαι**. See 377.

503. **οὐς...καὶ πάτραν**. For the order cf. 496.

504. **γ'...οὖν = γοῦν** which introduces something as *prima facie* evidence (here ironical) in favour of what precedes.

507. οὓς...δράν, the family of Pelias, whom Medea had no need to injure inasmuch as it was not her wrong but Jason's which she avenged upon them.

509. πολλαῖς μακαρίαν, blest in the opinion of many a woman.

510. θαυμαστὸν...κάπιστον. A husband to wonder at, a husband not—ah, not indeed—to be believed. ἀπιστος is here in the first place a synonym of θαυμαστός, incredibly good, too good to hope for: (see Soph. Phil. 807 τὸ ἐλπίδων ἀπιστον and the Lexicon under ἀπιστος). But the ironical use of it in this sense naturally suggests its literal truth in the other sense of false, faithless, and calls forth the exclamation ἢ τάλαν' ἐγώ. A very similar point is made by the orator Andokides (9. 32), in his πίστις ἀπιστοτάτη, an assurance beyond belief.

[MISS. καὶ πιστὸν. I have before cited with approval Nauck's remark that πιστὸν is out of place, the context requiring a word of the same complexion as θαυμαστὸν. His proposed substitute (σεπτὸν) has not found favour, for good reasons; and I therefore now offer my own.]

514. καλὸν (honourable or creditable, ironical) governs τῷ νυμφίῳ. καλὸν θρεῖδος is in apposition to the idea contained in φεύξομαι...μόνοις, and is itself further explained by πτωχοῦς...σε.

516. ὅς κίβδηλος ἦ. The regular construction of an indefinite relative clause in Attic Prose would require ἂν ἦ, but the simple subjunctive is frequent in Homer and occurs in the Attic poets. Cf. *El.* 972, ὅπου δ' Ἀπόλλων σκαιὸς ἦ τίνες σοφοί; *Ion* 855, τῶν ἐλευθέρων οὐδὲν κακίων δοῦλος ὅστις ἐσθλὸς ἦ. The examples in prose are rare and most of them doubtful. The thought is borrowed from Theognis (elegiac poet of Megara, about 600 B.C.) 119, χρυσοῦ κίβδηλοιο καὶ ἀργύρου ἀνσχετος ἄτη. Κύρνε, καὶ ἐξευρεῖν ῥάδιον ἀνδρὶ σοφῶ· εἰ δὲ φιλοῦ νόος ἀνδρὸς ἐνὶ στήθεσσι λελήθη ψυδρὸς ἐών, δόλιον δ' ἐν φρεσὶν ἦτορ ἔχη, τοῦτο θεὸς κίβδηλότατον ποίησε βροτοῖσιν, καὶ γυνῶναι πάντων τοῦτ' ἀνηρότατον. ἔτω, *whenceby*. ἀνδρῶν depends both on τὸν κακὸν and on σώματι.

521. φίλοι, those near and dear; the word friend does not cover φίλος as used in poetry; lovers would be here much nearer.

522. κακὸν λέγειν (explanatory infinitive, cf. 264), together.

523. Borrowed from Aesch. *Theb.* 62, σὺ δ' ὥστε ναὸς κεδνὸς οἰαοστροφος. ὥστε, *as*, a poetical use.

524. ἄκροισι λαίφους κρασπέδους, with the topmost edge of the canvas (only), i.e. with sails reefed up, to escape the

violence of the wind. Cf. Aristoph. *Ran.* 999, *συστείλας, ἀκροῖσι χρώμενος τοῖς ἰστίοις.*

526. *καί* emphasizes the whole phrase *λίαν πυργοῖς χάριν*, giving the effect of the English 'since you will exaggerate, etc.'

529. At the word *λεπτός* Jason interrupts himself, and the antithesis implied by *μέν* is not expressed. 'Though you have much wisdom, you have also', he was about to say, 'strong passions, and were led to save me simply by love'. But with an assumption of generosity (*ἐπιφθονός ἐστι λόγος διελλθεῖν*) he cuts this narrative short.

531. *τόξοις ἀφύκτοις.* The mss. vary between this and *πόνων ἀφύκτων.*

532. *θήσομαι*, *reckon*, as if he were taking an account between Medea and himself.

533. Literally, *for in whatever way (ὅπη οὖν) you served me, it is satisfactory*, i.e. *I am content with the kindness, howsoever done.*

534. *τῆς ἐμῆς σωτηρίας* is best taken as a partitive genitive, *of my safety what you have gained is more than what you have given*, i.e. in saving me your gain has been greater than your gift. *μείζω εἰληφας ἢ δέδωκας* is equivalent to *ταῦτα ἀεὶληφας μείζω ἐστίν ἢ ἐκεῖνα ἀδέδωκας*, and the genitive *σωτηρίας* depends upon this implied *ταῦτα* and *ἐκεῖνα*. It is also taken either (1) as the genitive of comparison after *μείζω*, upon which *ἢ δέδωκας* must of course also depend, *you have received more than my safety (more, that is,) than you have given*, or (2) as the genitive of price, *in return for my safety.* *εἰληφας*, see *λαμβάνω*.

537. The prevalence among the Hellenes of the idea of *law* as the guide of men's lives instead of the irregular action of despotic force was the chief mark of their advance in civilisation beyond foreign peoples (*βάρβαροι*), and they were justly proud of it.

538. *τε* couples *δικήν* (*morality*) to the substantival infinitive *χρῆσθαι νόμοις* (*how to live by law*), and both depend upon *ἐπίστασαι*. *πρὸς ἰσχύος χάριν*, *according to the pleasure of might.*

539. *ἦσθοντο*, see *αἰσθάνομαι*.

540. *γῆς ἐπ' ἐσχάτοις ὄροισιν.* From the Hellenic point of view, as Hellas extended her bounds by maritime colonies only, the eastern extremity of the Euxine was literally 'the end of the world'.

542—544. 'I should not care for either riches or genius without fame'.

543. ὑμνήσαι depends upon εἶη (= ἐξεῖη, *may it be permitted*), to be supplied from the previous sentence.

544. ἐπίσημος. The short initial vowel of ἐπι- ἀπο- (and much more rarely of other words) may be elided after a long vowel preceding. This is called *Prodelision*.

545. τῶν ἐμῶν πόνων πέρι, i.e. concerning the Argonautic part of the story, which might be called πόνοι Ἰάσονος, as the various enterprises of Herakles were called πόνοι Ἡρακλέος. Jason implies that his modesty would not have allowed him to refer to it, if Medea had not compelled him.

548. ἐν τῷδε, *in this matter*, to be taken with γεγώς. σοφός...σώφρων...μέγας φίλος, see the *Analysis*. μέγας, *powerful*.

550. ἀλλ' ἔχ' ἥσυχος. Medea's indignation at the last words is on the point of breaking into speech, as appears by her gestures. Jason coldly checks her.

553. τοῦδε...ἡ γῆμαι. Cf. *Herakl.* 297, οὐκ ἔστι τοῦδε παισι κάλλιον γέρας ἢ πατρὸς ἐσθλοῦ κάγαθου πεφικέναι. The pronoun τοῦδε is explained by the clause with ἡ, as it might be by the equivalent substantival form τοῦ παῖδα γῆμαι.

555. ἧ, *where*. The antecedent is σὸν...πεπληγμένος, treated as one thought, *not weary—your sore point—of you, and smitten &c.*

557. *bent upon a rivalry in numerous offspring*, i.e. anxious to surpass my existing family by a larger one.

558. Supply παιδές εἰσι.

562. θρέψαιμι, see τρέφω.

563. Jason proposes by *combining the families* to give to his children by Medea the princely rank which his expected children would inherit from their mother.

564. ξυναρτήσας...εὐδαιμονοῦμεν. This change, though not according to our rules, is perfectly logical and was in Greek also conventionally grammatical. The participle refers to one only of the subjects to the plural verb, Jason. Cf. *Aesch. Eum.* 141, ἀπολακτίσασ' ὕπνον ἰδώμεθα, *Soph. Phil.* 645, χωρῶμεν ἔνδοθεν λαβῶν ὅτου σε χρεῖα μάλιστ' ἔχει. The mss. give the sing. εὐδαιμονοίην but the subsequent explanation (σοί τε γάρ... ἐμοί τε) shows the plural to be correct.

566. τέκνοις, *instrumental; by means of*.

568. οὐδὲ σὺ, *together*.

569. ἐς τοσοῦτον ἤκεθ' ὥστε, *this is the sum of you, that*, i.e. this is your scope or range of ideas, you have no thought for anything beyond. Literally, *you come to so much*, an arithmetical expression in which Greek and English coincide. Cf. *El.* 1053, ἧ δὲ μὴ δοκεῖ τάδε οὐδ' εἰς ἀριθμὸν τῶν ἐμῶν ἤκει λόγων, *she does not amount even to a number in my reckoning*. Another way is to supply *μωρίας* or some such genitive after *τοσοῦτον*, translating *you are come to such a pitch (of licentiousness)*.

573. τίθεσθε, *you reckon*.

577. κεί παρὰ γνώμην ἐρῶ, *though I shall speak indiscreetly (in saying so)*. See the *Analysis*. For *παρὰ γνώμην*, lit. *contrary to judgment*, see *Thuk.* i. 70, καὶ παρὰ γνώμην κινδυνευτά, *venturesome even to indiscretion*.

579. See the *Analysis*. πολλά, often. πολλοῖς βροτῶν depends upon διάφορός εἰμι = διαφέρομαι. ἐμοί, *in my opinion*. ἐφλισκάνει ζημίαν, *incurs loss or damage* (the original sense of ζημία), i.e. is damaged by his eloquence. ἔστι δ' οὐκ ἄγαν σοφός, *is not so very wise after all*; his cleverness proves to be folly.

584 may also be read and punctuated thus, ὡς καὶ σὺ μὴ νῦν κ.τ.λ. *Accordingly do not you in this case try your plausibility upon me*. The text is, *So is it with you: do not therefore*, etc.

585. δεινὸς λέγειν is the usual Attic for *eloquent*. ἐκτενεῖ σέ, a metaphor from wrestling. See ἐκτείνω.

587. μὴ σιγῇ φίλων, *not hiding it from those who loved you*. σιγῇ is dative of the manner, φίλων objective genitive: σιγῇ τινος (masc.) answers to the verbal construction σιγᾶν τί τινα, *to conceal a thing from a person*.

588. οἶμαι, *I trow or doubtless with ironical emphasis*. Another reading is καλῶς γ' ἂν οἶν μοι where μοι as well as λόγῳ depends upon ὑπηρετεῖς. λόγῳ, *proposal*.

590. πολυᾶς, *can*. μεθίναι, see μεθίημι.

591. τοῦτο, the belief that if consulted I should refuse consent. εἶχεν, *restrained*. Cf. *Phoen.* 1156, ἀλλ' ἔσχε μαργῶντ' αὐτὸν...Περικλύμενος, *but Periklymenos restrained his fury*.

ἀλλά...σοι. Either, *looking to old age marriage with a foreigner began to appear discreditable*, i.e. you thought that your passion for a foreigner, which was excusable in youth, would be differently regarded as you advanced in years: or, *the foreign wife (another sense of λέχος) was getting an old face* (lit. *passing into an old age*) that did you no credit, i.e. as she lost her good looks you ceased to take pride in the possession of

her. According to the second view the construction is *βάρβαρον λέχος ἐξέβαυε πρὸς γῆρας οὐκ εὐδοξόν σοι*.

[The first rendering involves, as I think, an impossible rendering of *ἐκβαίνειν*, which, on the other hand, is used by Plato (see Lexicon) for the passage from one time of life to another, e.g. *ἐκβαίνειν τὴν ἡλικίαν τοῦ γεννᾶν*. The construction suggested above seems simpler and better than that which I before proposed, *πρὸς γῆρας (as she grew old) ἐξέβαινεν οὐκ εὐδοξόν*].

598. Constr. *μὴ γένοιτό μοι εὐδ. βίος, λυπρὸς (ὦν)*.

599. *κνίζου*. In an optative sentence relative clauses follow the mood of the principal. English uses the indicative present.

600. *οἶσθ' ὡς μέτευξαι*; The construction (common in Euripides and Aristophanes, and occurring more rarely in Sophokles) is *μέτευξαι—οἶσθ' ὡς*; *Change the prayer—do you know how? i.e. Change the prayer as I will teach you*. The following *καὶ σοφωτέρα φανεῖ* is constructed as if for *οἶσθ' ὡς μέτευξαι* had been written the equivalent *μέτευξαι ἔδε*.

604. *φευξοῦμαι*. This form of the future (for the common *φεύσομαι*), regular in the Doric dialect, is occasionally used in Attic poetry. *κλαυσόμεθα* (*κλαίω*) and *χεσοῦμαι* (*χέζω*) were also used, and *perhaps* *βουσοῦμαι* (*ρέω*), *πνευσοῦμαι* (*πνέω*), and a few others. Curtius, *Greek Verb*, p. 470, Eng. trans.

605. *αἰτιῶ*, see *αἰτιόμαι*.

606. *γαμοῦσα*. The active (proper only to the man, *γαμοῦμαι* being said of the woman) is used in order to point the aim at Jason, 'Did I do to you as you did to me?' Supply *εἰλόμην*.

608. *Your house too, maybe, is for my sake accursed*. Jason having outraged in the person of Medea the sanctity of the family tie, she has become *ἀραῖος δόμος*, *a curse to his house*, and her presence is therefore a standing reproach to him. This, she says, and not the offence against Kreon upon which Jason insists (607), is the real cause of her expulsion. The king is not at all events (*γε*) the sole person to whom she is dangerous. The use of *τυγχάνω οὔσα*, *I am perchance*, gives a mocking tone of insinuation to her remark.

609. *ὡς* for [*ἴσθι*] *ὡς understand that* is common in Euripides and gives a strong positive tone. *κρινοῦμαι*, *will dispute*, *κρίνεσθαι*, properly 'to have something parted between oneself and another'. *τὰ πλείονα τῶνδε*, *the rest of this (controversy)*, i.e. the further matter (note the article) which you have yet to allege. So Soph. O. C. 36, *πρὶν νῦν τὰ πλείον' ἱστορεῖν*, *before you ask the further question (which you were about to put)*.

610. Another reading is *σαντῆ φυγῆς*, where *φυγῆς* as well as *χρημάτων* will depend on *προσωφέλημα*. See on 49.

612. *ἔτοιμος*: the omission of *εἰμί* with this adjective is regular, as also with *φροῦδος* and *εἰκός* (*εἰκός*).

613. *ξύβολα*. *tokens* or *tallics* sent with a traveller to foreign friends (*ξένοι*) of the sender, and serving as a simple sort of letters of introduction. According to the ancient commentary, the special kind of *σύμβολον* intended was made by dividing *ἀστράγαλα* (bone-dice), each *ξένος* taking a part.

614. *μωρανεῖς*. See on 61.

624. *δωμάτων ἐξώπιος*. For the use of the compound instead of the simple *ἔξω*, cf. *ἔξεδροι χθονός*, *Κρήτας ἔξορμος*, *ἐκτόπιοι δόμων*, *δωμάτων ἐκδημος*, etc. Such periphrases are part of the poetic or tragic style, and the word *ἐξώπιος*, in particular, seems to have been characteristic of Euripides, as it is introduced by Aristophanes (*Thesm.* 881) in a parody of his language.

625. *ξὺν θεῷ δ' εἰρήσεται*. *with God's help it shall have been said*, i.e. *if God will*, a formula to avoid presumption in anticipating the future. Cf. *σὺν θεῷ* in 802, and *σὺν θεοῖς* in 915.

626. *γαμεῖς*. Second pers. sing. of the contracted future *γαμῶ* (*γαμέω* from *γαμέσω*). Cf. *καλῶ*, *τελῶ*, etc. *You shall have such a 'wedding' as you would fain refuse*. The 'wedding' is her vengeance called so by way of mockery; see on 957 and 1159.

627. See the *Analysis*.

ὑπὲρ...ἄγαν: the idea of excess is repeated for emphasis, cf. Aesch. *Pers.* 794, *τοὺς ὑπερπόλλους ἄγαν*.

629. *ἄρετάν*: here as often in poetry synonymous with *εὐδοξίαν*, *reputation*. *παρέδωκαν*, *allow, permit*; an aorist may represent habitual occurrence (called 'gnomic' as being used in *γνώμαι*, *proverbs*); in English we use the present.

632. *ἐπ' ἐμοί*, an unusual construction for *ἐμοί* or *ἐπ' ἐμέ*. *ἐφέλης*, see *ἐφίημι*. *χρυσέων τόξων*, genitive of origin depending on *οἰστόν*, *an arrow from thy golden armoury*. *οἰστόν* is object both to *ἐφέλης* and *χρίσασα*.

635. *στέγοι*, *cover*, as with a shield; the metaphor of the arrow is still pursued. The mss. have *στέργοι*, a word unfit for the context.

637. Constr. *μήποτε Κύπρις προσβάλοι* (*πρὸς ἐμέ*) *ὄργας καὶ νείκη, ἐκπλήξασα θυμὸν ἐπὶ ἑτέροις λέκτροις, maddening my soul for another love*, i.e. with desire for it.

641. *But favouring peaceful wedlock, may she with discernment assort our marriages.* κρίνειν has its original sense to divide or distribute. Aphrodite is implored to judge with care the dispositions of men and women, and by distributing them suitably to prevent quarrels and changes of affection.

645. τὸν. The Greek 'article' has sometimes its original force as a demonstrative. So here, *that hard and helpless life.* δυσπέρατον: lit. *hard to traverse.* Others οἰκτροτάτων: for the double genitive ἀμαχανίας...ἀχέων, see on 49.

648. δαμείην, see δαμάζω. ἀμέραν, metaph. for *life.*

653. The object to εἶδομεν and ἔχω must be supplied from the previous sentence, viz. 'the fact that exile is the worst of ills'. μῦθον is predicative. The literal rendering is *I have seen it, I may reflect upon it not as a tale from others, i.e. From my own eyes and not from the mouth of others have I learnt the lesson.* Note the difference between φράζω and φράζομαι.

660. τιμᾶν, to requite, from τιμή in its proper sense of price or payment. See on 415.

καθαράν. Where a genitive forms a sort of compound with the substantive on which it depends (as here κλήδα φρενῶν = heart-key) an adjective may agree in inflection with the principal substantive though in sense it belongs to the dependent. Cf. Hipp. 762, πλεκτὰς πεισμάτων ἀρχάς, Phoen. 1351, λευκοπήχεις κτύπους χερσῶν. καθαράν therefore may signify pure and refer in sense to φρενῶν, but it may also, perhaps better, be taken closely with ἀνοίξαντα, opening clear or clean, as καθαρά ὁδός is an open road. Others καθαράν, gen. plur. fem.

663. See *Analysis.*

665. Pandion, a former king of Athens. No special reason for the epithet σοφοῦ appears to be known.

668. *And why* (i.e. for what enquiry) *did you journey to the oracular centre of the earth?* or according to others θεσπιωδὸν ἰζάνεις, *Why did you sit upon, &c.* The ὀμφαλός was a sacred stone upon the floor of the temple of Apollo at Delphi, supposed (whence its name) to be the centre of the earth. Suppliants, and perhaps also persons consulting, sat upon it (Aesch. Eum. 40). ἰζάνεις is a 'historic' present corresponding to an English past tense. MSS. either ἐστάλης or ἰκάνεις.

670. γὰρ. See on 326.

675. Literally, *words more subtle than in proportion to a man to guess, i.e. words subtle beyond man's understanding.* Cf. Plat. Crat. 392 B, ταῦτα μὲν ἴσως μείζω ἐστὶν ἢ κατ' ἐμὲ καὶ σὲ ἐξευρεῖν.

676. *μὲν* in an interrogative sentence implies that the speaker wishes or feels bound to assume an affirmative answer, and intends to pass on to another question or inference, as Medea does here in 678. Cf. 1129.

677. *ἐπεὶ τοι καὶ*. 'Since as you see it is just a subtle wit that it needs'. The words in italics give the full force of *τοι* and *καὶ*, the last throwing an emphasis upon all that follows it.

679. A symbolical injunction to observe chastity. *προῦχων* (*προέχων*) *ποῦς ἀσκού* is the hanging foot of an animal's skin, out of which was made the neck of the leather bottle (*ἀσκός*).

684. *εὐσεβέστατος*. A very pious man, not 'most pious among the children of Pelops'. *ὡς λέγουσι* with *εὐσεβ*.

688. See the *Analysis*.

694. *ἐφ' ἡμῖν*, *succeeding to me*: to make a second marriage was *ἐπιγαμεῖν*.

695. MSS. *ἢ που* (or *ἦ που*) *perhaps*, which does not express the required surprise. Editors read either *μή που* (cf. Aesch. P. V. 247), or *οὐ που*, cf. *Hel.* 135.

696. *τοῦ*, see on 645.

698—701. These four lines form two interrupted speeches, 698 being continuous with 700, and 699 with 701. From the first mention of Jason's treachery in 690, Aigeus follows the successive details with rising impatience and indignation (observe his *σαφῶς φράσον*, *φράζε σαφέστερον*, *ἔγω νυν*, *πέραινέ μοι λόγον*); and here, when Medea, after saying enough to show the drift of her answer to the alternative question of 697, puts in by way of parenthesis the ironical interrogatory *πίστος οὐκ ἔφυ φίλοις*; *Is he not a faithful friend?* Aigeus without waiting for the rest hastens to a fresh question, in the midst of which Medea's sentence concludes. This dialogue (690—708) must be supposed to be delivered with extreme rapidity and excitement on both sides; in fact, as far as stage necessity permits, Medea and Aigeus here 'both speak at once'.

μέγαν ἔρωτα, acc. cognate to *ἡράσθη* in 700. Medea is repeating the apology of Jason (see 550—567 and compare 884—888) that his motive in marrying the princess was the advantage of such a powerful connexion (*κῆδος*).

[In my larger edition I took *μέγαν ἔρωτα* (*ἔρασθεῖς*) *πιστὸς οὐκ ἔφυ φίλοις* as a complete and continuous sentence, *an ambitious passion made him false to his old love*, and I still prefer this to the usual punctuation (*μέγαν γ' ἔρωτα*: *πιστὸς οὐκ ἔφυ φίλοις*), which leaves the latter clause 'in the air'. But the supposed ellipse of the participle is ill-suited to the form

of the sentence, and the connexion now proposed smooths away both this offence and also the uncouth abruptness of 700. The point of Medea's parenthesis would be more obvious if we read

μέγαν γ' ἔρωτ'—ἄπιστος οὐκ ἔφιν φίλος;—

Is he not an incredible friend? ἄπιστος having the same expressive ambiguity as in 511: and the authority of the MSS. is as good for this reading as for the other.]

699. This also is an incomplete sentence, afterwards finished by διδωσι δ' αὐτῷ τις; in 701, where δέ marks, as often, not the beginning of a new sentence, but the beginning of the second part (apodosis) of the conditional sentence, εἴπερ... κακός being the first part. If, says Aigeus, Jason really has the baseness to desert you, what father is willing to make himself an accomplice in the crime by giving him his daughter in marriage? An example of an interrupted sentence in στιχομυθία, somewhat similar in the circumstances, will be found at *Tro.* 716—720.

Ἔτω νυν. An exclamation expressing impatience and contempt, as in 798, 819. Others take 699 as a complete sentence, *Away with him, if he is as base as you say*: but there is no authority for this rendering of ἔτω.

703. ξυγγνωστ' ἄγαν ἄρ'. MSS. σύγγνωστα γὰρ. ἄγαν = *only too*.

705. *Here is yet again a fresh crime and another criminal!* Literally *a fresh crime of another*. As Medea's wrongs are successively disclosed, the whole story appears to Aigeus like a monstrous and incredible conspiracy. At first Jason only is involved (690—692); the further detail of the new marriage brings into view the complicity of the bride's father; and now a third party appears in the author (not yet named) of the sentence of banishment. MSS. ἄλλο. The expression ἄλλο καινὸν αἶ, though apparently without example, is in itself defensible, as this species of tautology is common in Greek. But see next note.

707. *And does Jason allow it? I did not mean to commend that either.*

It is important to distinguish between ἤνεσα or ἐπήνεσα, used in reference to the present, and αἰνώ or ἐπαινῶ. The examples of the aorist may be classified in two main divisions.

(1) The use of the aorist instead of the present may signify that the feeling of approbation is, in the moment of speaking, past, and is already succeeded by a feeling of disapprobation. It thus implies that the praise is given *with a*

reservation, and may generally be rendered by *It is very well*. A further distinction may be taken as to the reservation implied:

(a) The reservation implied may be that the act is *tardy*. Examples are

Ion 1614, ἦρεσ' οὐνεκ' εὐλογεῖς θεὸν μεταβαλοῖσα. *It is well that you praise the god in this altered tone* (though you should not have reviled him as in your folly you lately did).

Soph. El. 1322, σιγᾶν ἐπήνεσ' ὡς ἐπ' ἐξόδῳ κλύω
τῶν ἐνδοθεν χωροῦντος.

It is well that you are silent (just in time) for, &c. Orestes has urged Electra to repress the effusion of her joy at his return, remembering that their vengeance is yet to be accomplished (see 1235, 1258, 1271 and especially 1288—1300). Electra vehemently professes her willingness to obey, and disobeys in the very act of professing (1301—1321). Luckily she comes to a pause before mischief has resulted, and Orestes, with some irony, commends her for controlling her tongue. See also *Eur. Tro.* 53.

(b) The reservation implied may be that the act commended is *unseasonable*, or at least that its goodness is not just now material, from the point of view of the person praising. This is the well-known ἦρεσα (or ἐπήρεσα) as a formula of refusing or declining—'You are very good, but, &c.' Examples are

Iph. T. 1023, οὐκ ἂν δυναίμην τὸ δὲ πρόθυμον ἦρεσα.

Iph. A. 440, ἐπήνεσ' ἀλλὰ στεῖχε δωμάτων ἔσω.

In cases falling under (1), the use of the aorist is of course not necessary: its signification is that of the present with a slightly different shade, which might be otherwise conveyed by the tone of the voice. Thus in *Alk.* 1093, 1095 the present is first used and the aorist immediately afterwards substituted. But there is another class of cases to which this does not apply, for

(2) The aorist, not the present, must be used, when the speaker refers to something previously said by himself, which he desires to explain or correct. Thus *I praised* (or *I did not praise*) means *By what I said I meant* (or *I did not mean*) to praise &c. Examples are

Med. 223, where see note.

Androm. 785, ταῦταν ἦρεσα ταῦταν καὶ φέρομαι βιοτᾶν,
μηδὲν δίκας ἔξω κράτος, κ.τ.λ.

To understand this it is necessary to go back to *ibid.* 764. The Chorus commence by praising the advantages of wealth

and rank (764—776), but explain that they do not mean an oppressive and invidious greatness (777—784). Then returning to their first point they say, in the words of the citation, *The life I praised, the life I prefer is this—power in just measure, &c.*

Under one of these classes may be placed all the examples in tragedy of ἤνεσα or ἐπήνεσα describing a present feeling—except this passage (*Med.* 705—707) as given in the mss. An explanation (1) is clearly out of the question, we should expect to find explanation (2) applicable, and the emphatic οὐδὲ ταῦτα points in the same direction (observe the emphasis on ταύταν in *Androm.* 785 and on ἀστών in *Med.* 223). But if ἄλλο be read in 705 there is then no implied excuse for Jason's acquiescence, and nothing therefore to be corrected by οὐδὲ ταῦτ' ἐπήνεσα in 707. The reader will see that the correction ἄλλον removes this difficulty: by attributing the sentence of banishment to another (ἄλλος), Aigeus might seem to leave Jason's share in it out of view, and he now amends his verdict in that particular.

708. With οὐχί must be supplied ἐὰ from the previous line, *He professes to object, but inclines to resignation, lit. prefers to bear it (my banishment) patiently. λόγῳ in word is opposed to ἔργῳ in fact.* The last words are ironical, and describe not what Medea believes Jason to feel respecting her banishment, but what Jason professes to feel. He represents himself (455) as having submitted with regret and after many efforts to the sentence which Medea's rebellious temper had made inevitable. Medea believes that he is secretly glad, and this would be here implied by her manner and tone.

715. θάγοις, because the presence of a man's children and the prospective maintenance of his race was in Greek view the special consolation of a happy death. Cf. *Soph. O. C.* 1110, οὐδ' ἔτ' ἂν παράθλιος θανῶν ἂν εἴην σφῶν (his children) παρεστῶσαν ἐμοί, and see on 1350.

717. εἰ, but (though you little know the treasure you have found) I the distressed suppliant have power to give you your wish.

718. θήσω, will cause or make.

722. For in respect of this (the producing of children) I am quite lost, i.e. I have no power. Or otherwise, upon this I am wholly bent; if the second is right, the sense of φροῦδος is unusual.

724. δίκαιος ὦν, with a right to do so. See the *Analysis*.

728. οὐ μὴ μεθῶ· οὐ μὴ with the subjunctive expresses a strong future negative, I certainly will not let you go. μεθῶ, see μεθήμι.

730. ἀναίτιος καὶ ξένοις, *blameless in the eyes of my allies also*. See the *Analysis*.

732. ἔχοιμ' ἄν πάντα πρὸς σέθεν καλῶς, *literally I should have (have received) everything satisfactorily from you, i.e. you would wholly content my wishes*.

734—740. See the *Analysis*. [The reading of 737—739 is uncertain, though the argument is in the main clear. The version in the text, which in some points has little or no critical probability, is that of several editions, and may be accepted provisionally. That of my larger edition, where a full discussion will be found, is

λόγοις δὲ συμβὰς καὶ θεῶν ἀνώματος
ψιλὸς γένοι' ἄν κάπικηρυκεύματα
οὐκ ἀντιοῖο,

i.e. if you make with me a verbal compact not ratified by oath, you will be without defence and not on equal terms in negotiations (with my enemies).]

736. Constr. οὐ μεθεῖς ἄν ἐμὲ τοῦτοις, ἄγουσίν με ἐκ γαίας, *when they propose to take me by force from the land*. Observe that the present participle ἄγουσιν represents, as often, an action proposed and so far only going on. μεθεῖς = μεθείης; this contraction commonly occurs only in the plural of the tense μεθέιμεν, μεθεῖτε. Some read here μεθεῖ', *i.e. μεθείο*, the corresponding mood and tense of the middle voice, which (if ἐμοῦ be supplied) gives the same meaning.

737. θεῶν ἀνώματος, the genitive of respect frequently follows a negative compound adjective, as ἀχαλκος ἀσπίδων, *having no brazen shields*. ἀσκευος ὅπλων, *not equipped with arms*, &c. φίλος: the object is still τοῦτοις, *you may make friends with them and desert me*.

741. *Your words show (ἐλέξας) a long foresight in negotiation*. The 'negotiation' which Medea foresees is that between Aigeus and the Corinthians respecting the surrender of her person. For this sense of λόγοι, cf. Soph. Phil. 1307, ψευδοκήρυκας, *κακοὺς ὄντας πρὸς αἰχμὴν ἐν δὲ τοῖς λόγοις θρασεῖς*, and *ibid.* 563, *ὡς ἐκ βίας μ' ἄζοντες ἢ λόγοις πάλιν*; There is another ms. reading ὦ γύναι for ἐν λόγοις, and some read ἐδείξας for ἐλέξας.

744. The construction is ἔχοντα σκῆψίν τινα, *δεικνύναι αὐτήν*. For the explanation of this σκῆψις, or *excuse*, see the *Analysis*.

745. *And your case is more fixed*, or, as we might say, *stands the firmer*. ἐξηγεῖσθαι = to dictate a formula for another to repeat; θεοὺς, the gods to be sworn by.

752. MSS. γαῖαν λαμπρὸν ἡλίου τε φῶς, οἱ λαμπρὸν θ' ἡλίου φάος.

753. ἔμμενεῖν ᾧ, i. e. τοῦτοις ᾧ. ἔμμενεῖν future; observe the accent.

754. τί...πάθοις; The tense which would be used by Aigeus in invoking upon himself a penalty for perjury (πάθοιμι, *may I suffer*), is adopted by Medea in the form of a question, which is therefore equivalent to, *And what do you pray that you may suffer, &c.?*

759. ὁ...ἄναξ. Hermes in his function of 'guide', from πέμπεω, to escort. Maia, a daughter of Atlas, was his mother.

760. ὧν...κατέχων. Equivalent to ᾧ σπεύδεις, κατέχων ἐπίνοιαν [αὐτῶν], where ᾧ is accusative cognate to σπεύδεις, *that upon which thou art bent, holding firm the purpose to do it.*

764. She invokes the god of her race (Helios) and the gods who were bound to protect her as the victim of perjury. Δίκη Ζηνός. *Justice, daughter of Zeus.*

765. The use of the plural here gives a sort of impersonal magnificence, as if it were her cause rather than herself that is triumphant. When she comes to the personal details she falls to the singular (772). On the gender of *μολόντες* (771) see on 314.

766. εἰς ὁδὸν βεβήκαμεν, *are upon the road.*

768. ἧ μάλιστ' ἐκάμνομεν, *where we were in the worst distress*, the question of a refuge having been Medea's chief difficulty (see 386). κάμνειν being the proper word for a ship *labouring*, as we say, at sea (Aesch. *Theb.* 210) leads up naturally to the metaphor in the next line. τῶν βουλευμάτων may be taken either with λιμῆν or with ἧ (*the point in my deliberations where*) and in fact belongs to both.

770. πρυμνήτην κάλων, the rope from the stern by which the ship would be made fast to or on the shore. ἐκ τοῦδε: the Greeks say *fasten from* for our *fasten to*.

773. λέγειν πρὸς ἡδονήν, *to speak with a view to pleasing*, was the established antithesis to λέγειν τὴν ἀλήθειαν, *to speak frankly* (Hdt. 7. 101). δέχου...λόγουσ therefore = *accept the unpalatable truth*, μὴ πρὸς ἡδονήν λόγουσ being equivalent to λεγόμενα μὴ πρὸς ἡδονήν.

777. ταῦτα, his new marriage and its consequences. To explain this which is intelligible from the context some one inserted the clumsy line 778. Some omit also 779. The change of construction ὡς...δοκεῖ,...εἶναι, both depending on λέξω, is common in *oratio obliqua*.

781. οὐχ ὡς λιποῦσ' ἄν, *not as meaning to leave them.* λιποῦσ' ἄν differs from λείψουσα as λιποῦμι ἄν from λείψω, *I would not (in any case) from I will not.* MSS. λιποῦσα: others λιπω σφε.

782. This line is unnecessary (the object to λιποῦσα being supplied from 780), and probably interpolated from 1060, 1061.

785. If this line is retained, the words τῆνδε μὴ φεύγειν χθόνα must be explained as depending upon the notion of *asking* (ικετεύοντας) implied in δῶρα φέροντας. But such a construction is not possible, and the line is spurious or corrupt.

791. ὄμωξα. See on 223. She refers to what has just passed in her thoughts, or to an audible sigh or groan which accompanies the words.

793. τόμα. Observe the strong emphasis given by position to this word. She hints that the children are hers to do with as she will. Jason has disowned them and shall not have them.

798. ἔτω. See on 699. Here also the exclamation signifies impatience. The original meaning seems to have been defiance, and the literal sense, *Let it come.* We have no corresponding English interjection suited for use in poetry, but in this place it might be nearly represented by *Nay, nay.* Cf. 819.

801. ἀνδρὸς Ἑλληνος λόγοις. The name is meant to imply contempt: πιστὸν Ἑλλὰς οἶδεν οὐδέν (*Iph. T.* 1295) was the foreign view of the Hellenic character.

802. ξὺν Θεῷ, *if God will.* See on 625.

809. βαρῆϊαν, *dangerous:* cf. 38.

810. Such was the ancient Greek ideal of morality, though at the time, and among the philosophic circles, a higher and more gentle creed was gaining ground under the influence of civilisation and reflexion. The old view is summed up in very similar language by the poets of the sixth century B. C. in fragments attributed to Archilochos, Solon, and Theognis: ἐν δ' ἐπίσταμαι μέγα, τὸν κακῶς τι δρῶντα δεινοῖς ἀνταμβεῖσθαι κακοῖς (*Arch. fr.* 65), ἐν μοι ἔπειτα πέσοι μέγας οὐρανὸς εὐρὺς ὑπερβην χάλκεος, ἀνθρώπων δείμα χαμαιγενέων, εἰ μὴ ἐγὼ τοῖσιν μὲν ἐπαρέσω σὶ με φιλεῖσιν τοῖς δ' ἐχθροῖς ἀνίη καὶ μέγα πῆμ' ἔσομαι (*Theogn.* 869): and so also in the earlier part of the fifth century, Pindar *Pyth.* II. 151. Of the personal feelings of Euripides on the subject we have no evidence.

814. ἔστιν, equivalent to ἐξεστίν: *it cannot be otherwise.*

815. πάσχουσιν follows, notwithstanding the dative σοί, the case of the accusative σε implied as the subject of λέγειν.

817. δηχθείη, see δάκνω.

818. δέ...γε. *Yes, but your case would be worse.*

819. ἔγω. nearly as in 798, the mark of impatient interruption.

οὖν, contraction (κράσις or mixture) of αὶ ἐν. αὶ ἐν μέσῳ λόγῳ, *intervening talk*, intervening, that is, between resolution and execution.

820—823. To one of her servants, perhaps the τροφός.

821. τὰ πιστά, *employments of trust.*

823. εἶπερ φρονεῖς εἰ δεσπόταις, *as you are a loyal servant*: she uses the plural not because she refers to any other master beside herself, but to express the general idea 'a master as such', which in English is represented by the indefinite article. φρονεῖς εἰ. It may be noticed that the regular word in Greek for the English *loyal* applied to a subject or servant is εὐνους. See the *Analysis*.

824—835. According to the punctuation given in the text these lines form one sentence, the outline of the construction being Ἐρεχθεῖσαι [εἰσι] τ. π. δλβιοι καὶ παῖδες θεῶν μακάρων, [ὄντες] ἀπὸ τε ἱερᾶς χώρας ἀπορρήτου ἀπὸ τε ῥοᾶς Κηφισοῦ τοῦ καλλιβάου. The words φερβόμενοι ... φυτεύσαι, though grammatically connected with the main sentence, are in sense parenthetic. The Athenians believed themselves to be descended from two divine ancestors,—Γῆ the Earth, the mother of their progenitor Erechtheus, and Κηφισός, the god of the river so called close to their city, whose grand-daughter Praxithea Erechtheus married. These two, Earth and Kephisos, are the χώρα and the ῥοὰ of the present passage. For εἶναι ἀπὸ τινος *to be descended from*, cf. 406 and *Hel.* 275. Of the myth which traced the pedigree to the Earth, Euripides gives (in φερβόμενοι...φυτεύσαι) a sort of rational interpretation, to the effect that the intellectual and artistic gifts (σοφία) of the race were due to the favourable climate of their habitation.

Another way of punctuating is to end the sentence at φυτεύσαι: see note on 836, τάν. In 826 ἀποφερβόμενοι is also read for ἄπο φερβόμενοι, the construction being then, φερβόμενοι ἀπὸ χώρας σοφίαν.

826. ἀπορρήτου. The Athenians had inhabited from immemorial antiquity, without disturbance, the soil from which they believed themselves to have sprung, while the other Greek peoples had suffered violent territorial changes. This was the origin of their boast that they were αὐτόχθονες, *men of their own soil*. See *Thuk.* i. 2.

830. βαίνοντες ἀβρῶς, *moving delicately*, as if enjoying the luxury of a climate favourable to their well-being.

832. The birth of the Muses in Attica is an allegory signifying that the happy *temper and combination* (*ἀρμονία*) of the elements and climate, and the absence of disturbing causes, had fashioned the country for their habitation. According to another legend *Μνημοσύνη* was the mother of the Muses.

836—840. There was at Athens a temple to Aphrodite in a place called *Κῆποι*, 'the Garden', with which temple, and with the use of the *Kephisos* for the purpose of irrigation, the lost legend (*κλήζουσι*) here mentioned was probably connected. The reading and interpretation are uncertain. In the mss. text (above printed) the accusative *χώραν* appears to depend upon *καταπνεύσαι αὔρας*, *Kephisos' stream, whereof, they say, Aphrodite drew water and breathed gales over the land*. But neither the construction nor the sense is now commonly approved: *χώραν* should be *χώρας* (genitive), and there is no proper connexion of ideas between *ἀφυσσαμέναν* and *καταπνεύσαι*. There are also other difficulties. The reading adopted in my larger edition is,

τὰν Κύπριν κλήζουσιν ἀφυσσομένην
 χώραν καταπλεύσαι μετρίοις ἀνέμων
 ἠδυνόοις ὄροις,

to draw whereof Aphrodite sailed, they say, to the land with gentle whisperings of balmy winds.

τὰν, here not the article but the relative, as constantly in Ionic, and not rarely in other poetry. It depends upon *ἀφυσσαμέναν* and the antecedent is *ῥοᾶς*. Those who make the previous sentence end at *φντεῦσαι* (see note on 824) construe *κλήζουσιν τε τὰν* (the article) *Κύπριν*, *ἀφυσσάμεναν ἀπὸ ῥοᾶς Κηφισοῦ*, *καταπνεύσαι κ.τ.λ.* or *ἀφυσσαμέναν ῥοᾶς* (accusative plural) *ἀπὸ Κηφισοῦ*, *καταπνεύσαι κ.τ.λ.*

840—844. αἰεὶ δ'...ἔρωτας. Here [*Κύπριν*] *ἐπιβαλλομένην* ... *ἀνθέων* may be grammatically either the subject or the object of *πέμπειν*, and *ἔρωτας* may be either the object or the subject; in the first case it is Aphrodite who *sends* the Loves to Attica, in the second (which corresponds to the reading of 836—40 suggested in the previous note), it is the Loves who *escort* her thither. *ἐπιβαλλομένην* is middle voice (*putting upon her own hair*) if *Κύπριν* is the subject, passive if *ἔρωτας* is the subject, Aphrodite being *crowned* by the Loves. In Greek *ἐπιβάλλομαι πλόκον χαίταισιν*, 'a wreath is put upon my hair', is as regular a construction as *ἐπιβάλλω πλόκον χαίταισιν*, 'I put a wreath upon the hair of another'.

845. ἀρετᾶς, *excellence*, particularly *artistic excellence*, not *virtue* in the more limited moral sense. This again is an allegory. Ἔρως, the passion for the beautiful, assists in the

achievements of *Σοφία*, a large word which includes both 'wisdom' and 'art'. For the same reason the Loves are said to be τῆ σοφία πάρεδροι.

846—850. *How then shall that city of sacred waters or that land hospitable to its friends contain thee the murderess of thy children, whose presence with others is unholy?* For the transposition of the first ἦ from its natural place before *ιερῶν* cf. 856 and Aristoph. *Birds* 419, *πέποθε...κρατεῖν ἂν ἦ τὸν ἐχθρὸν ἢ φίλοισιν ἀφελεῖν ἔχειν*, for *ἦ κρατεῖν ἂν τὸν ἐχθρὸν ἢ φίλοισιν κ.τ.λ.*—These lines are given as they are at present generally printed, following the reading of one division of the mss. But it is certain that they are not right. There is no point in the distinction between the πόλις and the χώρα, and the hospitality of the city would be an aid and not a hindrance, as the words imply, to the reception of Medea. Still more doubtful is the expression τὰν οὐχ ὅσιαν μετ' ἄλλων. φίλων. Adjectives in -ιμος may govern an objective genitive. *πρόμπιμος*, derived from *πέμπειν* in the sense of *bring in, bring home*. Cf. *Phoen.* 984.

852. *ἀρῆσθαι*, to take up has the same metaphorical sense as our *undertake*.

856—859. The word *τέκνων* is corrupt and has apparently replaced some noun in the accusative case answering to *θράσος*. The construction is *πόθεν λήψει ἢ θράσος φρενὸς ἢ...χειρὶ καρδίᾳ τε σέθεν; Whence wilt thou find either courage of soul or...for thy hand and heart?* the dots representing the corrupted word: *μένος* force and *τέχνην* craft have been suggested. For the position of ἦ see 847, and for the change of case between *φρενὸς* and *χειρὶ καρδίᾳ τε*, cf. *Herakl.* 72, *πόλει τ' ὄνειδος καὶ θεῶν ἀτιμία*, *Ihes.* 760, *τοῖς ζῶσι δ' ὄγκος καὶ δόμων εὐδοξία*. Among other suggestions ἢ *χειρὶ τι νῦν σθένος* is most worth mention but does not appear very probable.

859. *προσάγουσα*, supply *τέκνοις* from *τέκνα* the object of the preceding sentence.

861. *ἄδακρυν μοῖραν σχήσεις φόνου*, lit. *maintain without a tear the doom of blood*, i.e. not be arrested by tears in the execution of it.

863. *ικετᾶν*, gen. plur. of *ικέτας* (Attic -της).

867. οὐ κἄν. The *καὶ* is antithetical to the *καὶ* in 866—*even though an enemy, you must not even so be refused this small boon*. Observe γε. οὐκ ἂν, mss.; others οὐ τάν. τοῦδε = either τοῦ ἤκειν or τοῦ ἀκούειν.

871. *Since ere now we have done each other much love*. In *ὑπεργάζεσθαι*, to do beforehand, the preposition has the same force as in *ὑπάρχειν*, to exist beforehand. Cf. *Hipp.* 504. The

preposition might also signify either *secrecy*, as in ὑποκλέπτειν, or *compliance, serviceableness* as in ὑπηρετεῖν.

872. διὰ λόγων ἀφικόμεν = διελέχθην, cf. 1082, *Tro.* 916, ἄ σ' οἶμαι διὰ λόγων ἰόντ' ἐμοῦ κατηγορήσειν, *Iph. A.* 1194, ταῦτ' ἤλθες ἤδη διὰ λόγων. Many such compound verbs occur in tragedy formed from a verb of motion (ἐλθεῖν, ἵκναι, χωρεῖν, μολεῖν, ἀφικνεῖσθαι) and διὰ with a genitive (ἐχθρας, δίκης, φόβου, φόνου, &c.)

874. βουλεύουσιν, *advise*: note the voice.

876. ἡμῖν depends on τὰ συμφορώτατα.

877. Cf. 563 where Jason argues to this effect. Medea pretends to have been convinced.

879. τί πάσχω; which is best taken as a parenthetic exclamation, is a rebuke, signifying literally *How am I affected!* or in English idiom *What possesses me?* Note carefully that πάσχω is not *suffer*, but is the passive correlative of δρω, and means *I have something done to me*.

882. ἐννοηθεῖσα. The mss. vary between the middle and the active form ἐνοήσασα; *to reflect, think with oneself* is, according to other examples in Euripides, ἐννοεῖσθαι; *to invent ἐννοεῖν. ἠρθόμεν, see αἰσθάνομαι. ἔχουσα.* See on 296.

887. καὶ ξυγγαμεῖν σοι, and ought to have joined in your bridal. συγγαμεῖν σοι is the reading of one important ms.; the rest and most editions have συμπεραίνειν, and ought to have helped to accomplish them (τὰ βουλευμάτα), which has less point.

καὶ παρεστῆναι λέχει, and to have countenanced the match. For παρίστασθαι in the metaphorical sense of supporting, cf. *Herakl.* 589, οὐ γὰρ ἐνδεής ὑμῖν παρέστην ἀλλὰ προὔθανον γένους; *I did not fail to support you but died on behalf of our house.*

888. κηδεύουσαν from κῆδος, a marriage connexion, κηδεύειν τινί, *to make a match with.* Translate, and should have been glad to ally myself by marriage with your bride, cf. 835. For the case of κηδεύουσαν see on 815. Others (reading with the mss. νύμφην), and should have been glad to wait upon your bride. The objection to this is that κηδεύειν τινα means *to nurse*, as in sickness.

889. ἔσμεν οἷόν ἐσμεν. This manner of suggesting instead of expressing something unpleasant is a favourite in Attic, cf. 1011, *Tro.* 630, ἄλωλεν ὡς ἄλωλε, *Iph. A.* 649, γέγηθά σ' ὡς γέγηθ' ὄρων (meaning but not openly saying *I have no joy in seeing you*), *Soph. O. C.* 273, ἰκόμην, ἐν' ἰκόμην, *O. T.* 1376, βλαστοῦσ' ὅπως ἔβλαστε (born in that sad way), &c.

890. χρῆ' ἔξομοῖσθαι. The subject (τινα) is to be supplied. The maxim is general,—men ought not to copy the frailties of

women. **κακοῖς**, neuter. Others (the mss. giving several readings) **χρῆν σ' ὁμοιοῦσθαι**.

891. **ἀντιτείνειν** (sc. *αὐταῖς*) is intransitive, *to struggle against them*: the phrase **νήπια** (neuter plural) *ἀντι νηπίων* (*childishness against childishness* or *meeting childishness with childishness*) is in apposition to the notion of an action implied in *ἀντιτείνειν*.

892. **παριέμεσθα**. She speaks as if for herself and her womanly partizans, the Chorus. See 576.

894. **δεῦτε**, not elsewhere used in Attic writers.

895. **προσείπατε**, *say farewell to*: see 1069, 1350. Here there is the same sort of ambiguity which is the key-note of Medea's farewell (1021 foll.); the children are to bid their father adieu, ostensibly for a temporary exile, really for ever.

897. **τῆς ἔχθρας**, the genitive depends upon *διαλλάχθητε*; *be reconciled from your old quarrel*. She speaks of her children as one with herself and attributes to them also *τὴν πρόσθεν ἐς φίλους ἔχθραν*.

899. *Take his right hand*. **ὄμοι...κεκρυμμένων**. The exclamation is involuntary and forced from Medea by the painful thought of her purpose. The others do not understand it, and she hastens (901) to cover it by an ordinary explanation. In the same way she tries to account for her tears. *τὰ κεκρυμμένα* signifies to Medea her secret purpose, to Jason's ear the uncertainty of fate.

902. She alludes to the solemn farewell gesture which the children ought to have made at that funeral of their father which they are never likely to celebrate. Cf. *Alc.* 768, *οἶδ' ἐξέτεινα χεῖρα*, and see on 1350.

905. **ἔπλησα**, 906, **ὠρμήθη**. For these aorists describing that which has happened the instant before (English presents), compare 708, 791, &c.

906. **χλωρὸν δάκρυ**. A difficult epithet. Perhaps *pale* *tear* from the effect of weeping, *χλωρὸς* properly meaning *yellow* or *pale green*. So *χλωρὸν ὕδωρ*, *the pale water*, *Phoen.* 659, *ἀδινῶν χλωρῶν δακρῶν ἄχραν*, *the pale dew of plenteous tears*, *Soph. Trach.* 848. Others explain *χλωρὸν δάκρυ* as *abundant tears*, *χλωρὸν* by a metaphor taken from plants, passing from the sense of *green* to the sense of *vigorous*; cf. Homer's *θαλαρὸν δάκρυ*.

908. **τάδ'**, her present submission. **ἐκεῖνα**, her former rebellion.

909—10. *For it is natural to the female sex to show ill-humour against a spouse, when he traffics in an alien*

marriage (?). These lines are ungrammatical and otherwise incorrect. παρεμπολῶντος should be a dative: the genitive absolute inserted between the noun πόσει and the verb which governs it is extremely harsh, and without any satisfactory example. ἀλλοίος is not used by the Attic poets and, meaning simply of another kind, is not the right word for the place. The true reading is uncertain. παρεμπολᾶν = to mis-traffic, smuggle, introduce as it were unlawful merchandise into the family.

912. ἔγνωσ τὴν νικῶσαν (γνώμην), you came to the better mind, literally decided the prevailing decision. For the ellipse of the substantive, cf. Xen. Anab. vi. i. 18, τὸν δ' ἐμπροσθεν χρόνον ἐκ τῆς νικώσης ἔπραττον πάντα οἱ στρατηγοί, acted accordingly to the prevailing view, *ibid.* vi. ii. 12, τούτους δὲ ἐψηφίσαντο ἐκ τῆς νικώσης ὅτι δοκοίη τοῦτο ποιεῖν. In order to fill up the supposed gap some one ignorant of the use of ἡ νικῶσα for ἡ νικῶσα γνώμη probably inserted 913.

ἀλλὰ τῷ χρόνῳ, in the end, though late, literally at all events at last. For this use of ἀλλὰ see 942 and 1073, Soph. Trach. 201, ἔδωκας ἡμῖν ἀλλὰ σὺν χρόνῳ χαρῖν, Phil. 1041, τίσασθε τίσασθ' ἀλλὰ τῷ χρόνῳ ποτέ (now at least, if not before).

915. πολλήν ἔθηκε σωτηρίαν, has given you full security, made you thoroughly safe. For the aorist see on 213. The expression is too strong for the facts, considering that, whatever may be Jason's hopes and preparations, the children are actually about to go into exile. Others adopt the alternative reading of the mss., πολλήν ἔθηκε...προμηθίαν, in the doubtful sense has taken much forethought.

917. τὰ πρῶτα, the chief power or first in rank: see 563.

920. ἤβης τέλος μολόντας, matured to manhood, lit. arrived at the end—manhood, the genitive ἤβης defining τέλος.

922. αὐτή, vocative, you there! The expression, like the English *Eh, what?* gives a certain air of sharpness and rebuke: cf. *Alk.* 773, οὗτος, τί σεμνὸν καὶ πεφροντικὸς βλέπεις;

925—932. The numbers in the margin indicate the order in which the lines stand in the mss.; the connexion of thought appears to require the change.

929. δῆ, τάλαινα. Another reading is δῆτα λίαν. λίαν, overmuch, i.e. for nothing.

930. ἐξήχου. MSS. ἐξήχουν.

931. οἰκτος εἰ γενήσεται τάδε, pity that this is to be. Several words of feeling, such as οἰκτεῖρω, θαυμάζω, ἀγανακτῶ, are followed by εἰ, *if*, where their English equivalents take *that*. τάδε is intentionally vague; Medea means the intended murder

of the children, Jason understands her to refer to their exile. Others take τὰδε as = τὸ τὰ τέκνα ζῆν, and make εἰ...τὰδε a question depending on οἶκτος εἰσῆλθέ με, *I felt compassion at the doubt whether this will come to pass*, citing *Hec.* 186, *δειμαίνω τί ποτ' ἀναστάνεις*; But there is a difference between *I am alarmed why you sigh* and *pity seized me whether this will come to pass*, so that it is safer to render οἶκτος εἰ according to its regular meaning. Jason's affectionate prayer might naturally suggest sorrow that his children are going out of his protection: and see also on 901 and 1350 for the special significance of the word ζῆν.

926. εὖ. θήσω absolutely for *I will make all right* does not occur elsewhere, but καλῶς θήσω is common, as in *Aesch.* *Ag.* 1673, *ἐγὼ καὶ σὺ θήσομεν κρατοῦντε τᾶνδε δωμαίων καλῶς*.

928. θῆλύ (ἔστι), *is a soft thing*.

κάπλι δακρῶν ἐξυ, *and is born for tears*, i.e. naturally prone to weeping. ἐπι with the dative often describes a circumstance or condition of the act or occurrence stated, and sometimes the object of it, which is one of the circumstances.

933. μνησθήσομαι, *will make mention*, to be distinguished from μεμνήσομαι, *I will remember*. ἐγὼ. There is no apparent reason for the emphatic pronoun.

938. ἀπαίρομεν. The present tense may perhaps be explained by regarding the thing absolutely determined as already in the course of being done. *I go* means 'it is settled that I go'. Others substitute the future ἀπαροῦμεν.

941. Construction οὐκ οἶδ' εἰ πείσομαι ἄν. Observe carefully that this is not a hypothetical sentence but a dependent question, εἰ meaning *whether*. πείσομαι ἄν nearly = πείσω, but expressing more doubt, — *whether there is a chance, &c.*

942. ἀλλὰ (if you shrink from asking Kreon yourself), *then bid your wife ask*. Cf. 912, *Hec.* 391, *ὕμεις δὲ μ' ἀλλὰ θυγατρὶ συμφονεύσατε* (if you will not spare my daughter), *then slay me with her*. πάρος, *instead, in your place*. Cf. *Herakl.* 536, *ἀδελφῶν ἢ πάρος θέλει θανεῖν*, *Or.* 345, *τίνα γὰρ ἔτι πάρος οἶκον ἄλλον...σέβουσαί με χρῆ*; MSS. πατρός: but ἀπεισθαι (see 940) governs an accusative, not a genitive, of the person asked. In 1154 *παραίτησιν πατρός* the genitive is governed by the preposition παρά. σῆν, supply *γυναικα*. Jason interrupts Medea. See the *Analysis*.

945. Supply *πέσεις αὐτήν*. τῶν ἄλλων μία, *a woman like the rest*, lit. *one of the rest*, an expression not strictly logical, but easily intelligible in the sense of 'one that may be classed or counted with the rest'. See the *Analysis*.

947. Construction *πέμψω παῖδας φέροντας αὐτῇ δῶρα*.
 948. τῶν, partitive genitive, *among*.
 950. ὅσον τάχος, *with all speed*.
 952. ἐν...μύρια, accusatives of respect to *εὐδαιμονήσει*.
 955. δίδωσιν, historic present = English past. Cf. *Heb.* 1134, *ὃν ἐκ Τροίας ἐμοὶ πατὴρ δίδωσι Πηλεΐδης ἐν δόμοις ἔχειν. οἷς*. The possessive *ὅς* is not elsewhere used by Euripides in iambic dialogue, and the examples in lyric passages are doubtful.

956. φερνάς, *dower-gifts*, or gifts from friends of the bride.

957. μακαρία is a touch of irony. In its obvious sense it is a common term of felicitation. But a dead person was also said to be μακάριος (compare the Latin *beatus*, the German *selig*, our own *entered into rest*, etc.); so in Plato, *Laws*, 947 D, τὸν μακάριον γεγονότα, *the defunct*. In the sight of Medea the receiver of her fatal gifts is in this sense also μακαρία. See further, on 1159—1166. It is important to remember that gifts of this kind were presented at funerals as well as at weddings, and the same term (*κόσμον φέρειν*) described both customs. Cf. *Alk.* 613.

958. μεμπτά, again a word of double signification, ostensibly *not contemptible (in value)*, in the mind of Medea *not contemptible* in the sense of *formidable*, cf. *Soph. O. C.* 1036, *οὐδὲν σὺ μεμπτὸν ἐνθαδ' ὦν ἐρεῖς ἐμοί, as long as you are here your words are not to be despised*.

959. κενοῖς, see *κενώω*.

963. προθήσει χρημάτων: supply τὸν ἡμέτερον λόγον, or simply ἡμᾶς, *for as sure as the lady holds me of some value, she will rate it (or me) above possessions. ἡμᾶς, properly the like of me, i.e. me being what I am.* Cf. 307, *οὐκ ᾧδ' ἔχει μοι—μὴ τρέσῃς ἡμᾶς—Κρέων*.

[Dr Ludwig Schmidt, in the review of my larger edition already mentioned, observes that it should have been noticed here that the use of *χρημάτων* as a description of precious ornaments is peculiar. It is perhaps unnecessary to assign to the word a more limited sense than *objects of value* generally, the comparison being between the influence of Jason and that of any material bribe. But if Dr Schmidt means that *χρημάτων* in the usual sense, though it gives a point, does not give the point which the context leads us to expect, I entirely agree with him.

The speech of Jason (959—963) is no answer to the speech of Medea. Medea is well aware that the value of her gifts, merely as so much gold and stuff, is, if compared with the

position of the recipients, contemptible, and foresees that this fact is likely to excite suspicion. Accordingly in praising them she carefully ignores the wreath and robe, and insists upon the fact that the 'κόσμος' is an heirloom in her family from the Sun-god. The true meaning of this has not, I think, been properly apprehended. Why should 'κόσμος' of the Sun-god be so manifestly 'the best in all the world', as Medea confidently asserts in 947? To answer this, we must consider more particularly what this κόσμος is. These articles of dress are a complimentary gift sent to be worn upon a solemn occasion. Such presents were a common way of expressing sympathy in the graver incidents of domestic life, particularly marriage and death. Thus Pheres, as already noticed, in the *Alkestis* brings κόσμος to the funeral of his daughter-in-law; and in a similar spirit, Deianira in the *Trachiniae* states that she vowed if her husband came home safe, to give him a tunic in which to perform his sacrifice of thanksgiving. Both robe and wreath are perfumed with scented oil—of this we may be sure for several reasons. The use, and the liberal use, of such 'unguents' upon solemn or festive occasions was with the Greeks and Romans a matter of course: thus, when Alkestis, in the scene which affords so much illustration of this play (see the note on 1158), attires herself for death, she brings her ἑσθῆς (Medea's wreath and robe) and her κόσμος from presses of cedar (κέδρινοι δόμοι) where they were kept to preserve their fragrance (*Alk.* 160). The attiring of a bride in particular was considered a proper occasion for the use of the most costly cosmetics, as we see from Aristophanes (*Plut.* 530) where it is prophesied that, under certain circumstances, it will no longer be possible

οὔτε μύροισιν μύρισαι στακτοῖς, ὅπῳταν νύμφην ἀγάγησθον,
οὔθ' ἱματίων βαπτῶν δαπάναις κοσμηῆσαι ποικιλομόρφων,

(where, it should be noted by the way, ἱμάτια βαπτῶν may well mean not *died* but *dipped*, i.e. *perfumed* garments, the merit of the pattern being sufficiently given in ποικιλομόρφων). That Medea did not forget the unguent we know, not only from her own statement (τοιοῖσδε χρίσω φαρμάκοις δωρήματα, 789), but because it is the express condition of her plans. *It is the scented oil which is poisoned*, and which prevents the suspicion which the appearance of the besmeared ornaments must otherwise have excited. The same custom enabled Deianira to apply the poisonous blood of Nessos to her tunic. As she says in Sophokles (*Trach.* 580), she added the poison in the process of dipping it:

χιτῶνα τόνδ' ἔβαψα, προσβαλοῦσ' ὅσα
ζῶν κείνος εἶπε.

It may be observed that in *Trach.* 764 *κόσμῳ τε χαίρων καὶ στολῇ*, as in the above-mentioned passage of the *Alkestis*, the *κόσμος* is expressly distinguished from the garment, and appears actually to mean the cosmetic; in the *Medea* the ornaments and perfume together are so called. Now though the daughters of the Sun were not, so far as I know, remarkable in their wreaths or garments, they were specially famous for their scents and scented oils. Their very tears were fragrant and were, according to the legend, the material of scented amber. And we are told particularly of Circe (the aunt or sister of Medea) that she

urit odoratam nocturna in lumina cedrum,

burns scented cedar (or oil of cedar for κέδρος has both meanings) to her nightly lamps (Verg. Aen. 7. 13). That the art of extracting vegetable perfumes should be held a gift of the Sun is easily understood. Indeed it would belong to the Sun and his family as much, and for the same reason, as the science of *φάρμακα* generally, the preparation of oil to hold the drug being a part of the secret. So Pindar relates that Medea gave to Jason 'drugs preventive against pain, to anoint himself (*χρίσθαι*) withal, mingled with oil'. When, therefore, we find Medea vaunting the unsurpassable excellence of the *κόσμος* obtained from Helios, we can have little doubt that the virtue lies in the 'cosmetic' or scent; and this is confirmed when we see that it is to the '*κόσμος*', that is, to the robe and wreath treated with perfume, that the mortal effect is expressly attributed by Medea (see 786)—

*κἄνπερ λαβύσσα κόσμον ἀμφιθῆ χροῖ,
κακῶς δλείται.*

So much concerning Medea's commendation (947—958): let us turn now to Jason's reply. It is in substance this—'A princess is not to be won with a little gold and raiment. Spare your gifts; my influence will do more than bribes'. How does this answer meet the point made by Medea? She does not pretend that the robe and wreath are worth anything in themselves; she does not even mention them (for it is the better opinion, based upon grounds independent of the present argument, that 949 is an interpolation from 786). The temptation upon which she relies is the exquisite, the unpurchaseable *κόσμος* of Helios—and of this Jason says not a word. I think, therefore, that we should read not *χρημάτων* but *χρίμάτων*. The proper term for the application of cosmetics is *χρίειν*, and for the cosmetics themselves *χρίματα* (see 789, *Soph. Trach.* 675, etc. and the Lexicon at *χρίω, χρίμα*). Jason's question, *δοκéis... χρυσού*; is thus merely ironical—'Do you suppose that gold or garments are wanting at the palace? For as for your

vaunted gift of Helios, I warrant the lady will care more for me than *perfumes*'. This masculine contempt for a toilet-bouquet, however rare and delicate, is natural enough.

I may remind the unprofessional reader that between *χρῆμα* and *χρημα* the authority of our mss. is practically nothing. The copyists who wrote them pronounced the two words alike, and, moreover, could scarcely recognize the classical forms *χρῆμα*, *κέχρημαι*, *κεχρισμένος*, when they saw them, for in their time they had become *χρῖσμα*, *κέχρισμαι*, *κεχρισμένος*. (See Cobet, *Variae Lectiones*.)

This matter of the poisoned scent is not unimportant to the whole play, and will throw light particularly upon another passage, 983—4:

πέσει χάρις ἀμβροσίου τ' ἀγὰ πέπλου
χρυσουτέκτου τε στεφάνου περιθέσθαι,

the charm and the light of the ambrosial robe and gold-wrought wreath will tempt her to put them on. (The mss. give *ἀμβρόσιος*, but this unparalleled 'Euripidean' feminine is probably a mere error.) The epithet 'ambrosial' here is much to our purpose, for *ἀμβροσία* is the name proper to the perfume of the Gods, and it is chiefly by their savour that 'ambrosial' things are known for such. Indeed it is very seldom that the word is used except of things delightful either to taste or to smell. The Lexicon informs us that 'songs', 'friendship', and what not were so called, but the reader should turn to the references. Thus in Pindar (*Pyth.* 4. 299) poetry (*ἔπη*) is no doubt called *ἀμβρόσια*, but only when it is at the same time described as a fountain (*παγά*) to which the epithet would be strictly applicable. If we duly distinguish meaning from derivation, we ought to say that *ἀμβρόσιος* in Greek does not mean *immortal* at all but *sweet* or *fragrant*, these ideas being always, or almost always, uppermost, when the word is applied. It is well worth notice that in the only other extant passage where Euripides uses the word (*Hipp.* 748; in *Hipp.* 136 it is nonsense and not genuine) it is associated with those legends of the far West, of Phaethon, the Hesperides, and Atlas, which are specially and distinctively solar, and is the epithet of the *fragrant spring* *κρήνη ἀμβρόσια*, which perfumed the banquet-hall of the gods, and supplied the Sun with a bath for himself and his weary steeds. For this reason, and also because 'light' is not a quality for which a robe would be remarkable, it is to be suspected that Euripides wrote not ΑΤΓΑ but ΑΤΡΑ, *flavour*, the word specially appropriate to the 'breath' of things fragrant, such as *incense* and *morning* (see the Lexicon under *αὔρα*).

It must not be ignored, on the other hand, that when the

actual temptation comes to be described (1156) the princess is said not to 'smell' the κόσμος, but to 'see' it—

ἡ δ', ὡς ἐσεῖδε κόσμον, οὐκ ἠρέσχετο.

But this mere omission of a possible point is of little weight—it might even be argued, as a matter of taste, that a more specific description, such as ὡσφρήσατο, would have been somewhat crude. The sense of smell is a delicate theme for literary treatment and requires careful management.]

964. μὴ μοι σύ, ταῦτα λέξης or the like must be supplied. A colloquial expression. μὴ σύ γε is used in the same way. Constr. λόγος (ἐστί) δῶρα πείθειν καὶ θεούς, *It is a proverb that gifts tempt even gods.*

965. Another proverb. λόγων, words.

966. *Hers is the ἡγήσις (of the hour), hers the fortune that God is now exalting, she is young and a queen.* These words explain the application of the first proverb (964) to the present case, as τῶν...μόνον that of the second (965): but the reading is very uncertain. κείνα for τὰ ἐκείνης is an unusual phrase, and the series of short clauses without connecting particles is unlike Greek, especially the Greek of Euripides. καὶνὰ (*new fortunes*) has been proposed for κείνα, and is certainly better; but as neither this nor any of the proposed corrections removes all difficulties, I leave the text as it stands.

968. ψυχῆς, *life*, genitive of price; *barter their banishment for life*=give life to buy it off.

969. πλυσίους. Other mss. πλουσίους.

972. Medea's poison, in this also like that of Deianira in the *Trachiniae*, is extremely sensitive to light and warmth, which rapidly convert it into a devouring fire. Hence her anxiety that the gifts should be delivered directly *into the hand* of the intended victim. We must, no doubt, understand that the wreath and robe are brought from the house and conveyed by the children in boxes (ἔρηκη; cf. *Trach.* 615), and probably (see on 963) in κέδροι or boxes of cedarwood.

974—5. Construction γένοιθε μητρὶ εὐάγγελοι τούτων (gen. dependent upon the substantival εὐάγγελοι) ὦν τυχεῖν ἐρᾶ. That which she 'yearns to have' is, as Jason and the rest understand, the granting of her request, but, for the Chorus and the audience, the acceptance of her present. τῷ' = ἔτε.

976. See the *Analysis*. Supply εἰσί.

978. δέξεται, repeated to emphasize the pathos of the unconscious self-destruction to which the victim is to be lured.

For the same reason the words *αὐτὰ χερῶν* in 981 are drawn out of their natural order and placed prominently at the end of the clause.

981. *Herself with her hands = with her own hands.* MSS. *αὐτὰ χερῶν λαβούσα.*

983. See end of the note on 963.

985. *νερτέροις πάρα*, together, for the prose *παρὰ νερτέροις.*

991—2. Constr. *προσάγεις-ὄλεθρον-βιοτᾶ παισίν.* The dative of the remoter object, such as *παισίν* here, may depend upon a compound phrase already containing a similar dative. According to the simpler constructions of later language one of the datives would be replaced by a genitive, here by *παίδων.*

995. *ὅσον παροίχει, 'How great is thy fall!' παροίχομαι* or more commonly *οἰχομαι* = *to be lost, undone.* Others take *μοίρας ὅσον παροίχει* together for *how much art thou deceived in (gone astray from) thy doom!* *μοίρας*, genitive of respect depending on *δύστανε.* See 96.

996. *μεταστένομαι δὲ*, and next I lament. *μετά*, after.

1000. *σοι*, dative 'of the person interested'. Equivalent to English possessive, *thy husband.*

1002. *ἀφείνται*, see *ἀφίημι.*

1004. *εἰρήνη...τέκνοις*, literally *your children have peace as to what comes from there*, i.e. *from that part* (the princess and her family) *the children have nought to fear.* *ἔα.* An exclamation of surprise.

1005. *συγχυθείσα*, see *συγχέω.*

1006. An unmetrical line (*ἔστρεψας*) interpolated from 923.

1007. Similar to 924.

1009. *τύχην.* Either *circumstance*, or in a bad sense *blow* as in 198.

1010. *δόξης...εὐαγγέλου = δόξης εὐαγγελίου, was I mistaken in my fancy of good news*, i.e. in my belief that my news was good.

1012. *κατηφές ὄμμα.* Supply *ἐστί.* MSS. *κατηφείς ὄμμα.*

1013. *πολλή μ' ἀνάγκη.* Supply *δακρυρροεῖν ἐστί.*

1014. *ἔμηχανησάμην.* The conclusion in the singular brings into prominence the remorseful thought of her own revengeful obstinacy which is for the time uppermost in Medea's mind. The *παιδαγωγός* of course understands her to be

thinking not of the intended murder of her children but of her own exile and consoles her accordingly.

1015. *You too shall surely yet be restored by your children to Corinth from banishment.* *κάτει* is 2nd pers. sing. from *κάτειμι*, a compound of *εἶμι*. *εἶμι* and its compounds serve as the future indicative of *ἔρχομαι* and its compounds (it should be noticed that the future sense belongs specially to the indicative; *ἴθι*, *ἴω*, *ἴοιμι*, *ἴεναι* and *ἴών* are generally present, though also sometimes future in *oratio obliqua*). *κατέρχομαι*, fut. indicat. *κάτειμι*, present inf. *κατιέναι*, aor. *κατήλθον*, signifies to come home, especially from exile, and, according to the Greek practice with respect to neuter verbs, may be treated like a passive, as here, and take a preposition (*πρὸς* or *ὑπὸ*) and genitive of the agent. The corresponding active verb is *κατάγειν*, to bring home, restore, and thus Medea's reply (1016) means ostensibly, 'I am as little likely to be restored as to have power to restore another'. But she herself means *κατάξω* (*εἰς* Ἄδου δόμους) bring below, bring to death (cf. *Alk.* 26), and is still thinking of the murder. MSS. *κρατεῖς*.

1017. The commonplace of consolation, that 'Loss is common to the race'. *ἀπεξύγης*, see *ἀποξεύγνυμι*.

1021. See *Analysis*.

1025. *σφῶν ὄνασθαι*, to have joy of you (as a mother). See *ὄνιγμι*. *ἐπιδέν*, come to the sight of, live to see.

1026. *λέκτρα καὶ γυναῖκα καὶ γαμηλίους εὐνάς*. The repeated mention of the same thing, the marriage of her sons, by various names expresses the fond regret with which she dwells upon the idea.

1027. *ἀγῆλαι* (see *ἀγάλλω*), *grace, do honour to*, Fr. *fêter*, Germ. *feiern*. The subject is *με*.

λαμπάδας, with which the house of the bridegroom was lighted at the reception of the bridal procession. It was the Greek custom for the mother of the bride or bridegroom to hold a torch on such occasions (*δαδουχεῖν ἐν γάμοις*). Cf. the similar complaint of another mother in *Phoen.* 344, *ἐγὼ δ' οὔτε σοι πυρὸς ἀνηψα φῶς, νόμιμον ἐν γάμοις ματέρι μακαρίᾳ*, and in *Irh. A.* 732, *τίς δ' ἀνασχίσει φλόγα*; (if the mother is not at the wedding).

1028. *αὐθαδίας*. For the construction see 96, 995.

1032. *ποτέ* constr. with the future infinitives, as also *ἡ μὴν*.

1033. *γηροβοσκήσειν*. Supply the subject *ὑμᾶς*. The two filial duties of supporting the parent in age and of serving personally in the rites of burial (in the Greek view almost equally



important from its connexion with the religious worship of ancestors) are similarly mentioned in *Alk.* 662, παῖδες οἱ γηροβοσκῆσουσι καὶ θανόντα σε περιστελοῦσι. See also on 1350.

1035. ζηλωτὸν ἀνθρώποισι, *a thing men covet*, cf. 243.

1042. δράσω, aor. subj. (not future) in the deliberative sense, *What am I to do?*

1045. ἐμούς, emphatic by position, 'mine to take away if I please'. See 793.

1049. τί πάσχω; *What is coming to me?* or *What feelings are these?* πάσχειν = (not to suffer but) *to feel, experience*. Hence πάθος *feeling* and in later Greek *passion*. Cf. 879.

1051. *Nay, fie upon my weakness that I should even admit the soft suggestion to my mind!* Genitives such as κάκης here are closely similar to ἀθαδίας in 1028, the effect of the adjective there (δυστάλαινα) being supplied by the tone of the voice: the accusative τὸ...φρενί is in apposition to the exclamation, explaining and expanding it. Cf. *Alk.* 832, ἀλλὰ σοῦ τὸ μὴ φράσαι, *To think of your not telling me!* προσέσθαι, literally = *let into*. 2nd. aor. inf. mid. of προσίημι. Others προέσθαι... φρενός, *let my thoughts betray themselves in weak words*. The mss. give προέσθαι, and vary between φρενί and φρενός.

1053. See *Analysis*. ὅψ...μελήσει, *and if any one is not fit to take part in my sacrifice, he must himself look to it*. These words, a sort of parody of the formula with which a person about to sacrifice required the departure of impure or hostile bystanders, are addressed in a threatening tone to the Chorus, as an injunction not to attempt interference. χεῖρα δ' οὐ διαφθερῶ, *I shall not spoil my handiwork (stay my hand)*. Cf. διαφθεῖρειν γνώμην, *to drop a resolve*, *Hipp.* 388.

1056. μὴ σὺ γ'. This is the reading of best authority, though the emphasis on σὺ is without point. Other mss. μή ποτ'. Perhaps μὴ σὺ μ'.

1057. φείσαι, see φείδομαι.

1058. ἐκεῖ μεθ' ἡμῶν, i.e. at Athens; but from the sequel (1060—61) it appears that the course which Medea is here contemplating is that of leaving her children in *Corinth*. Probably there is an error in the text, for κεί μὴ μεθ' ἡμῶν (*though separated from me*) or the like.

1062—63. Interpolated from 1240, 41.

1064. πάντως πέπρακται ταῦτα, *Any way the thing is done*, i.e. the murder of the princess, involving as a consequence the impossibility of leaving the children in *Corinth*. Absorbed in her own feelings Medea has forgotten the princess and the

gifts so far as to speak of leaving her children to the *insults* merely (*καθυβρίσαι*) of her enemies, instead of to their certain vengeance. The mention of the *ἐχθροί* recalls the facts with a sudden shock, marked by the change of subject in *οὐκ ἐκφεύξεται*, *she* (the princess) *will not escape*.

1065. *δῆ, now*.

1067. *ὁδόν*, ambiguous; the path of exile or of crime. *ἀλλὰ... γὰρ* marks as usual that the speaker stops abruptly and turns to another subject. See 1301.

1068. Omitted by some, as consistent only with the real purpose not with the pretended. But it is scarcely more plain than *φείσαι τέκνων* (1057). The lines 1056—1068 are addressed rather to herself than to the children, and (even when the broad and inopportune frankness of 1062—1063 is removed) are less guarded than the rest of the speech. Moreover the *τλημονεστέρα ὁδός* may be referred ostensibly to the unprotected life which the children will lead when she is gone.

1069. *προσεπέειν*, to say farewell to. Cf. *Hipp.* 1099. See on 1350.

1073. *ἀλλ' ἐκεῖ*, in another home (though not in this). For *ἀλλὰ* see 912, 942.

εὐδαιμονοῦτον. The *original* endings of the dual in the 'historic' tenses of the indicative (impf. aor. and pluperf.) and in the optative appear to have been *-τον* (2nd pers.) and *-την* (3rd pers.). In Attic writers *-την* is very frequently found in the 2nd pers. also, and some would make this a universal rule, correcting this and other such passages accordingly.

1074. *προσβολή*, contact or pressure of lip to lip and breast to breast.

1077. *οὐκέτ'... ἔθ'*. For the repetition of *ἔτι* with the dependent verb, following *οὐκέτι* with the principal verb, cf. *Pind. Nem.* ix. 47, *οὐκέτ' ἔστι πρόσω θνατὸν ἔτι σκοπιῆς ἄλλας ἐφάψασθαι ποδοῶν*. 'Tis not further possible for a mortal to reach upon his feet a further goal. mss. *οἶα τ' ἐς ὑμᾶς* or *οἶα τε πρὸς υμᾶς*.

1078. mss. vary between *δρᾶν μέλλω* and *τολμήσω*.

1081—1115. See the *Analysis*.

1082—1084. *I have pursued subtler thoughts and faced greater questions than it behoves our sex to search*. *ἀμίλλας*, properly the contests of the mind debating with others or with itself.

1085. *ἀλλὰ γὰρ*. The change of thought here indicated by

this phrase is not so strong as in 1068. This is *but then*, the other *but now*. The fact common to the two uses is the shifting of the point of view. The question *τί μή; why not?* (cf. Soph. *Ai.* 668 etc.) is here parenthetical. It signifies *naturally* or *surely*. *Surely among so many a small class* (capable of culture) *may well be found*. τὸ γυναικῶν, *woman*, a not uncommon sort of periphrasis for *γυναῖκες*: literally *the (quality) or (condition) of woman*. Cf. Soph. *El.* 261, ἡ πρώτα μὲν τὰ μητρὸς ἢ μ' ἐγένετο ἐχθίστα συμβέβηκε = ἡ μήτηρ συμβέβηκεν ἐχθίστη. οὐκ ἀπόμουσόν (ἔστι), *is no alien to the muse*. MSS. παῦρον δέ τι or παῦρον δὲ δὴ. Others read

πάσαισι μὲν οὐ· παῦρον δὲ γένος—
[μίαν] ἐν πολλαῖς εὐροῖς ἂν ἴσως—
οὐκ ἀπόμουσον τὸ γυναικῶν.

Thus *μίαν...ἴσως* is a parenthesis, and the construction is *παῦρον γένος (ἔστιν) οὐκ ἀπόμουσον*, the words *τὸ γυναικῶν*, *of women*, *namely*, being added as a further definition of *γένος*.

1091. ἄπειροι. Supply τοῦ φυτεῦσαι παῖδας from what follows.

1093. τῶν γειναμένων depends on *προφέρειν*. εἰς, *in respect of*.

1094. μὲν τ' ἄτεκνοι MSS. δι' ἀπειροσύνην...τεκόντες. Construction οὐχὶ τεκόντες (παῖδας) δι' ἀπειροσύνην εἴτε κ.τ.λ., *not having begotten children because of their inexperience whether, etc.* τεκόντες, see τίκτω, commonly used of the mother, but sometimes of the father. MSS. *τυχόντες*.

1099. ὀρώ is forbidden by the metre. εἶδον or ἐγνων might fill the place.

1102. βίοντον, *substance*.

1103. ἐκ τούτων, *after or beyond this*, properly 'following out of'.

ἐπὶ φλαύροις...μοχθοῦσι, lit. *they labour on the terms of (having) bad (children)*, i.e. *bad children are the wages of their toil*.

1107. καὶ δὴ γὰρ, *for be it supposed that*, etc. Cf. 386.

1109—1111. This is very obscure, and the reading and punctuation uncertain. The text and rendering commonly adopted are

εἰ δὲ κυρήσαι
δαίμων οὕτως, φροῦδος ἐς Αἴδην
θάνατος προφέρων σώματα τέκνων,

still if fortune so chance, death flies (φροῦδός ἐστι, a wrong

translation) to the lower world bearing the bodies of the children away. The general meaning must be 'after all the children may die'.

[Dr L. Schmidt suggests *εἰ δὲ κηρήσαι δαίμων οὐ τῶς, if fortune chance unfavourably*, comparing for the euphemism Aesch. *Suppl.* 400, *εἴ ποῦ τι μὴ τοῖον τύχοι*. This is very attractive, but the difficulties of the sequel still remain.]

1112. *λύει* = *λυσιτελεῖ*.

1114. *παίδων ἔνεκεν*, as the price of children. Cf. *γάμων ἔκατι*, 1235.

1115. *θνητοῖσι θεοὺς ἐπιβάλλειν*. In English we should rather invert the phrase and say *that man should pay to the gods the tax (ἐπιβολή=imposition) of this bitterest grief*.

1116. See the *Analysis*.

1117. *προβήσεται*, to what point events will go, or more probably *οἱ προβήσεται*, in what they will end. See *προβαίνω, ἀποβαίνω*.

καραδοκῶ τάκειθεν οἷ, briefly for *καραδοκῶ ἐκεῖθεν οἷ τὰ ἐκεῖ κ.τ.λ.*

1122. *μῆτε...πεδοστιβῆ*, 'leaving behind neither ship nor chariot', i.e. 'removing all means of pursuit', appears to be the meaning of the words. But the expression is ridiculously extravagant: and probably there is some defect in the text.

1129. *μὲν*. *You are not mad, I suppose?* See on 676.

1132. *τοῖσδε*. MSS. *τοῖσι* or *τοῖς γε*.

1136. *τέκνων σῶν δίπτυχος γονή* = *the two children born of you*, *τέκνων* being genitive of definition.

1138. *ἤσθημεν*, see *ἤδομαι*.

1139. *δι' οἴκων*, the reading implied by the ancient paraphrase *κατὰ τῆν οἰκίαν*. MSS. *δι' ὠτων*, *whispered from ear to ear*.

1140. *ἐσπεῖσθαι*. See *σπένδω*, and the deponent *σπένδομαι*.

1142. *ἠδονῆς ὕπο*. The servant has to explain, for the purpose of the story, how he came to be in the women's part of the house (*γυναικωνῆτις*) from which he would usually be excluded, and to see what took place there. He was so much occupied with the children and the joy at the supposed pacification as to forget his manners.

1143. *στέγας*, accusative of motion towards or to; the construction is poetical.

1144. **θαυμάζομεν**, *revere*. The selfish and frivolous behaviour of the bride is purposely dwelt upon in order to avert from her for the moment the compassion of the spectator.

1145. **τέκνων ξυνωρίδα**. The same metaphor occurs in *Phoen.* 1085 and 1618.

1149. **μυσαχθείσα**, see *μυσάττομαι*.

1150. **ἀφῆρει**, *tried to check*. On this sense of *αἰρέω* and its compounds see 372.

1151. **οὐ μὴ...ἔσει**; The interrogative *οὐ μὴ* with the second persons of the future indicative is equivalent to a prohibition, *οὐ μὴ ποιήσεις*; = *μὴ ποίει*: *οὐ μὴ ἔσει...*, *παύσει δέ*; = do not be..., but cease... Cf. *Bacch.* 343 *οὐ μὴ προσοίσεις χεῖρα βακχεύσεις δ' ἰών*; *do not lay a hand upon me, but go and worship Bacchus*. This form of imperative has always a tone of protest, and often, as here, that of an appeal to the sense of the person addressed: Jason coaxes his wife like a fractious child. The origin of the use is disputed. Some make *οὐ μὴ ποιήσεις*; = *will you not not-do?* = *will you not abstain from doing?* = *do not do*. The objection to this is that the second negative would then naturally be *οὐ*. Others, therefore, think that *μὴ ποιήσεις*; here as elsewhere = the Latin *num facies?* *surely you will not do, will you?* and that *οὐ* was originally a negative out of construction = the English *may*.

1153. **οὐσπερ ἄν**. Supply *νομίζη*.

1155. **ἀφείναι**, see *ἀφίημι*. **ἐμὴν χάριν**. The possessive pronoun is used objectively, as a *favour to me*, i.e. *for my sake*. Compare the objective genitive.

1156. **ἠνέσχετο**. *ἦν-έ-σχετο*, with double augment, used as the aorist of *ἀνέχομαι resist*.

1157. *Before the father and children were a long distance off*. *ἀπέιναι...στάσιω* = the prose *ἀφεστηκέναι...ἀπόστασιω* (acc. cognate) *to be removed a...distance*. MSS. *τέκνα σέθεν*, which of course will not scan. Others read *πατέρα καὶ παῖδας σέθεν*. Even so the words, however, would mean rather *thy father and children*. In *Bacch.* 1276 we have *παῖς ἐγένετο τῷ ἐμῷ πόσει Πενθεὺς ἐμῇ τε καὶ πατρὸς κοινωνίᾳ*, a child *Pentheus was born to my husband from the union of me and his father*, but the parallel to this would be *παῖδας σέθεν καὶ πατέρα (αὐτῶν)*. A possessive pronoun may be supplied from any preceding noun, but the noun should precede.

Prof. Robinson Ellis writes, "May not the original here have been *μακρὰν ἀπέιναι πατέρα σὺν τέκνοις σέθεν*: -as from *-οις*, and then *ς* falling out before the initial *σ* of *σέθεν*. As soon as

τέκνοις became τέκνα, σύν was changed to καί." This deduction is not unsatisfactory, though it is not quite plain why the copyist who had before him σύν τέκνα σέθεν did not make the obvious correction τέκνοις. But the proposed reading scarcely removes the difficulty.

1159—1166. This passage is a curious illustration of the 'irony' or double meaning so congenial to the Attic mind and so frequent in the Attic poets. It has been seen that Euripides did not forget the parallel between the κόσμος presented at weddings and that presented at funerals, and is careful to make use of the fact that Medea's murderous offerings may be regarded in either aspect. See on 957. It cannot, therefore, be an accident that the same suggestion is sustained throughout the whole of the present description. Every detail is carefully studied to foreshadow the close-impending doom; every gesture of the delighted girl has a terrible significance. She attires herself in the fine robes and wreath of a corpse, doing unconsciously what Alkestis does consciously and in the foreknowledge of immediate death (*Alk.* 160); she smooths her hair, as if laying herself out, before the hand-mirror which, as we know from excavations, so young and beautiful a woman would have beside her in the grave; she beholds her 'breathless counterfeit' and smiles, not perceiving that it is a prophecy; she walks through her rooms to practise paces, when, had she known her fate, she would have been making the same round to pay her last devotions at her oratories (*Alk.* 170); she affects a languishing gait, and falls into a gesture (ἀβρὸν βαίνειν) characteristic of the mourners at a funeral (ἀβροβάται, *Aesch. Pers.* 1072. Cf. *Eur. Hel.* 1078, σοφώταθ' ἀβρὸν πόδα τιθεῖσα, said of a woman who cleverly and for a purpose imitates them); she admires the fair skin and *straight sinew* (note this very peculiar expression) of her pointed foot, little knowing how soon its whiteness will be the whiteness of death and the sinew straightened for ever.

1169. She faints. μὴ χαμαὶ πεσεῖν expresses the result of the action. φθάνει ἐμπροσούσα: she sank upon a seat scarcely in time to escape falling on the ground. φθάνειν ποιῶν τι = to do a thing sooner; see the Dictionary under φθάνειν.

1171. γεραιά, and therefore superstitious. πού, perhaps, probably.

1172. Πανὸς ὄργας, a fit or transport from Pan. Particular affections of the senses or feelings were attributed by the Greeks to the influence of particular deities; and sudden seizures especially to Pan: hence our 'panic terror', πανικός φόβος. Like powers were ascribed to Hecate, Kybele, and other divinities.

1173. *ὀλολύξεν, ὀλολυγή*, describe the cry with which women accompanied sacrifices and other religious acts: here it is intended to propitiate the god supposed to be passing.

1174. The turning of the eyes upwards is a frequent accompaniment of fainting. mss. *ὀμμάτων τ' ἀπὸ κόρας στρέφουσαν*, i.e. *ἀποστρέφουσαν* (*turning away*) κ. ο., but the division of a compound verb (tmesis) cannot extend over two verses, and the sense is inappropriate.

1176. Construction—*ἦκεν* (aor. of *ἴημι*) μ. κ., *ἀντιμολπον ὀλολυγῆς*, *answering the cry with different note*. Compare the construction of the genitive with such adjectives as *ἐναντίος*.

1181—4. The fainting of the princess lasted as long as it would take a quick walker to complete a stadion, that is a running-course of six *plethra* or 600 feet, which was the length of the stadion at Olympia. Take together *ἦδη... ἂν ἦπτετο ἢ δὲ...*, *he would have reached...and*—we should say 'when'—*she*, etc. *κῶλον δρόμου* is the 'arm' or side of the course, which was in shape like a hair-pin, two parallels joined by a semicircular turn. To traverse the return-arm of the course was in Greek *κάμπτειν θάτερον κῶλον* (Aesch. *Ag.* 334): here *ἀνέλκων κῶλον* stands for *κάμπτων κῶλον*.

The word *ἀνέλκων*, *dragging back*, is, however, unsuitable and probably incorrect: *ἀνακλῶν* (*ἀνακλάω*), *ἀνελθῶν*, and other corrections have been suggested.

Others take *κῶλον* to be the *limb* of the walker, and suppose *ἀνέλκων κῶλον*, *lifting leg*, to signify *stepping lightly*. In this case *δρόμου* depends upon *τερμόνων*.

1183. *ἠγέρετο ἐκ μύσαντος ὀμματος*, 'she waked from a closed eye', i.e. from the condition of having her eyes closed. The preposition *ἐξ* is frequently so used. *ἀνάυγου*, *lightless*, or *lustreless* (*ἀναυγος* from *αὐγή*), is a conjectural substitute for *ἀναύδου*, *speechless*, the reading of the mss, which others retain, explaining *speechless eye* to be an eye which shows that the power of speech is lost.

1187. *ἔει*, imperfect tense.

1190. Observe the difference of the tenses, *ἀναστᾶσα*, the momentary action, and *πυρρομένη*, *taking fire* as she went. Others *ἀνάξασ'* from *ἀναΐσσω*, *springing up*, a more picturesque word.

1193. *σύνδεσμα* may be either (1) the objective accusative after *εἶχε held*, or (2) the accusative of respect after *ἀραρότως εἶχε, was firm as to its fastening* (see Dictionary under *ἔχειν*). The second is the better as the fastening holds the gold, not

the gold the fastening. Others read *χρυσοῦν*, making *σύνδεσμα* nominative to *εἶχε* (*held*), and supplying *αὐτὸν* *it* (i.e. *στέφανον*) as the accusative.

1194. After *μᾶλλον* we must supply in thought such words as *ἢ ἐκώλυετο* *the fire*, far from being checked, rather, etc. *μᾶλλον* may also be taken with *ἔσειε*, as *she shook her more violently*.

ἐλάπτειτο, imperfect middle; supply *αὐτήν*, i.e. *κόμην*, *devoured it twice as fast*, the fire being compared to a tongue. Note the similar *παμφάγον* 1187, *ἔδαπτον* 1189, *γναθμοῖς* 1201. *ἐλάμπειτο* mss.; *λάμπεισθαι* means *to be illuminated*, and therefore *πῦρ λάμπεται* is not a possible expression. Others *ἐδάπτειτο*, or *ἐδαίειτο*.

1196. *τῷ τεκόντι* *to a parent*: see on 1094. *δυσμαθῆς* *ιδεῖν*, *unrecognizable to see*, or, as we should say, *by sight*.

1197. *δῆλος*, an irregular feminine, usually *δήλη*: cf. *μῶρος* in 61. The mss. of Euripides exhibit many such.

κατάστασις = *τὸ καθιστάναι*, a medical term; *the placing* (or *tracing*) *of the eyes was no plain matter*: it was not easy to say where or what like they had been. *εὐφνῆς*, *natural*, also a medical term; it is in construction predicate, not epithet.

1200. *πεύκινον δάκρυ*, *tear of the pine*, resin.

1203. *We had the event to warn us* (as a teacher).

1204. *ἀγνωσία*, causal dative constructed with *προσπίπτει*.

1205. *παρελθῶν*, *entering*. See 1137. mss. *προσελθῶν*.

1206. *δέμας*. Other mss. *χέρας*. Either phrase is correct.

1209. *τὸν γέροντα τύμβον*, *this old grave*, that is, himself, so old as to be rather a living tomb than a man. Persons in extreme age were called *τυμβογέροντες*, of which this is an exaggeration for pathos. So in *Herakl.* 166, *γέροντος εἵνεκα τύμβου*.

1213. *προσείχετο*. Note the tense: 'he began to be held = he found himself held.'

1215. *ἔξαναστῆσαι*, *raise up*, a word appropriate to *δέμας*, 1212, but not to *γόνυ*, and probably repeated by the copyist's mistake.

1216. The corpse, clinging to the old man by the poisoned robes, appeared to struggle against his efforts.

ἄγοι, *pulled*. Cf. *Bacch.* 1064, *λαβὼν γὰρ ἐλάτῃς οὐράνιον ἄκρον κλάδον κατῆγεν ἤγεν, ἤγεν εἰς μέλαν πέδον*. The optative

is used because the clause is frequentative, meaning 'so often as he pulled'.

1218. ἀπέσβη, *he sank*, literally *was quenched*, aor. of ἀποσβέννυμι.

1221. ποθεινὴ δὴ κλύουσι συμφορά, *a tale, forsooth, that one may well yearn to hear*, a reproachful allusion to Medea's cruel eagerness for the description (1133): δὴ implies here, as often, that the accompanying words are ironical. Literally, *an event desirable to those hearing of it*. In regular prose the article (τοῖς κλύουσι) would be required, but in poetry it is sometimes omitted.

Prof. Robinson Ellis has suggested to me the reading ποθ. καὶ κλύουσι σ., *a tale fit to make regrets even in a listener*, much more in an eye-witness. The sense is excellent, but I cannot find authority for the rendering of ποθεινὴ. ποθεινός appears to signify *causing desire*, not *causing sorrow*. The English *regret*, *regrettable*, bear both meanings, but the ambiguity does not, so far as I know, extend to ποθεινός.

MSS. ποθεινὴ δακρύουσι or δακρύοισι. The first will not scan; the second has no meaning.

1222. *As for thy prospect, that I leave* (let that be) *out of question*. τὸ σὸν, *thy case or part in the matter*.

1223. γνώσει αὐτή, *thou wilt thyself discover*, i.e. it belongs to thee to discover.

1225—1227. *And I will say without shrinking that men who pretend to be subtle and students of words greatly waste their pains*: literally *incur great waste or loss*, cf. 581. As these lines interrupt the simple connexion between 1224 and 1228, and as Euripides would scarcely lead up to a remark on the difference between the exact meaning of the two similar words, εὐτυχής and εὐδαίμων, by first observing that subtlety in words is a waste of pains, we may safely suppose that 1225—1227 do not belong to this place. They appear to be by Euripides, and were perhaps written in the margin of a copy of the *Medea* by a reader who thought, with justice, that the story of the messenger has a lame conclusion, so that in this case at least there is a 'waste of subtlety'. Ancient mss. not unfrequently contain passages inserted in this way.

[Some modern texts have μωρίαν for ζημίαν: but this conjecture has no probability, and is not supported by the Euripidean use of μωρία.]

1227. τούτους. The superfluous demonstrative here resumes the participial description τοὺς δοκοῦντας κ.τ.λ.; more

often it resumes a relative clause, such as ὅσοι δοκοῦσιν κ.τ.λ. would be here.

1228—1230. εὐδαίμων...εὐτυχής = *happy...fortunate*. The accurate interpretation of words, together with all other linguistic study, was in the time of Euripides perfectly new to the Greeks. It was one of the sciences professed and developed by the σοφισταί, or public instructors, a class whose importance belongs to the period from 450 to 400 B.C. One of them, Prodikos of Keos, gave especial attention to the distinction of synonyms. The general interest excited by such enquiries, when novel, accounts for the introduction of the present quibble into a poetical work designed to catch the popular ear, but it is none the less a blemish. ὄλβου, material *wealth*. ἐπιρρύντος, see ἐπιρρέω.

1231. See the *Analysis*. ζοικε, *seems likely*.

1232. ἐνδίκως Ἰάσονι. These words are to be emphasized and taken closely together, as appears from their relation and place in the sentence: the accumulation of the day's calamities is *just as regards Jason* (dative of the person interested), who has deserved his punishment. The Chorus imply by contrast regret for the fate of his innocent bride, which is more directly expressed in the following verses.

1233. σου ξυμφορὰς οἰκτείρομεν, an extremely rare arrangement of cases; the usual construction is σε ξυμφορῶν οἰκτείρομεν, *we pity thee for thy fate*.

1234. δόμους or πύλας, both ms. readings,

1235. γάμων ἕκατι τῶν Ἰάσονος, *as the price of wedding with a Jason*, the name again bearing an indignant emphasis.

1236. There is a slight pause after the significant τοῦργον. *I am resolved upon the deed—to slay, etc.*

1237. κτανούση...ἄγουσαν. Where the complement or indirect object (μοι) of a principal verb (δέδοκται) also supplies the unexpressed accusative-subject (με) to a dependent infinitive (ἀφορμᾶσθαι or ἐκδούναι), a participle combined with the dependent infinitive may agree either with the complement or with the unexpressed accusative; and sometimes, as here, the construction varies from one to the other. Cf. προσλαβόντι...ἐκόντα in Aesch. *Prom.* 216, κράτιστα μοι...ἐφαίνεται εἶναι προσλαβόντι μητέρα ἐκόντα ἐκόντι Ζηνὶ συμπαρασταεῖν, *it seemed to me best to take with me my mother and to give the willing Zeus my willing aid*. In such cases the accusative participle is generally more closely connected in sense with the infinitive than the other; here for instance κτανεῖν and ἀφορμᾶσθαι

express separate actions, ἀγειν σχολήν and ἐκδούναι are two aspects of the same proceeding, *by inaction to surrender.*

1240. πάντως, *any way*, whether I slay them or no. It is very important to observe that πᾶς is a Greek equivalent for *every* as well as for *every*.

1241. ἡμεῖς. The plural, not the singular, is used, because it is the character (of parent), not the individual, which is in question. The same effect is given in English when the speaker puts, in the place of 'I', a description of himself or herself, as for instance here, *The parent shall slay them who gave them birth.*

1243. μὴ οὐ πράσσειν. MSS. μὴ πράσσειν, but usage requires the double negative after the interrogative τί μέλλω; and generally after all verbs signifying to abstain or be hindered from doing, when the principal sentence is negative or interrogative. *I am prevented from entering is κωλύομαι μὴ εἰσιέναι, I am not prevented from entering οὐ κωλύομαι μὴ οὐκ εἰσιέναι, what prevents me from entering? τί με κωλύει μὴ οὐκ εἰσιέναι;*

The junction of the opposed adjectives δεινὰ...ἀναγκαῖα, *horrible but inevitable*, by the simple καὶ is unusual. So is the use of πράσσειν κακά, which commonly takes an accusative, as πράσσω ἐκείνον κακά, *I do him wrong.*

1245. βαλβίδα βίου, *a life-beginning*, forms as it were a compound substantive in the accusative case, and hence the case of the adj. λυπηράν which belongs in sense equally to both. βαλβίς is properly the starting-line of a race-course.

1249. ὅμως, not strictly necessary to the sense, forms, according to Greek usage, part of the concessive clause—*though nevertheless* being a stronger substitute for *though*. There is therefore no break of the verse after σφ'.

1250. τε...δὲ. The substitution of δὲ for the τε or καὶ, which we should expect, marks that the thought is interrupted and does not come to its natural conclusion. It would have run, for example, thus, φίλοι τ' ἔφυσαν καὶ φιλοῦσ' οὐ παύσομαι. But Medea, overcome by the violence of contending feelings, suddenly breaks off with a cry of misery and hastily quits the stage. Cf. *Phoen.* 1625, σοὶ τ' εὖ λέλεκται γόνατα μὴ χρώξω ἐμὰ, ἐγὼ δὲ ναλεῖν οὐκ ἔασαιμ' ἂν χθόνα, where the persuasive tone is changed for the peremptory *As you are well resolved not to beseech, so—nay, I say thou shalt not bide in the land.*

1251—1270. This passage consists of a strophe and anti-strophe in *dochmiac* metre. The regular foot of this metre is ~---~, two iambs separated by a long syllable, e.g. τέκνοις

προσβαλεῖν χεῖρ' αὐτοκτόνον, but several variations are permitted, such as ~~~~~ φόβος ὑπ' ἀνέρων, ~~~~~~ κατ' ἰδέε τ' ἄν, in which two short syllables take the place of one long, and others. With regard to the limits of these variations there is a dispute, with which it is not necessary to trouble the student at present. The passage is printed here with ms. readings throughout (except in 1269), and (with the same exception) is without obscurity. Those who maintain the necessity of a stricter correspondence between the strophe and antistrophe of a dochmiac chorus give various corrections; for example, a critic in *The Athenaeum*, Nov. 5, 1881, proposes αἰμά περ for αἵματι 1256, μάταν ἄρα for μάταν ἄρα (so some mss.) 1262, σοι βαρὺς for σοι φρενῶν βαρὺς 1265, καὶ σε δυσμενῆς for καὶ δυσμενῆς 1266. The dochmiac metre is specially used to express agitation and excitement.

1251. The goddess *Earth* is adjured to prevent the crime meditated, because it will outrage her sacred presence; the *Sun*, for the same reason, and also because as an ancestor of Medea he may be expected to protect his descendants.

1253. οὐλομένην. Epic form of ὀλομένην acc. participle of ὄλλυμι.

1254. αὐτοκτόνον. The prefix αὐτο- in αὐτοκτόνος, αὐτόχειρ, αὐτοφόντης, etc. may express not only *self-murder* but also *kin-murder*. See 1269, 1281.

1256. Construction: φόβος ἐστὶν αἵματι θεοῦ πίτνει ὑπ' ἀνέρων, *divine blood is in fear (danger) of being shed by human hands*. πίτνει ὑπ' ἀνέρων. In Greek a neuter verb may take the same construction as the equivalent passive. Here πίτνει = ἐκχεῖσθαι. So ἐξελαύνειν Καλλίαν ἐκ πόλεως is to banish *Kallias*, ἐκπεσεῖν ὑπὸ Καλλίου ἐκ πόλεως to be banished by *Kallias*. The epic ἀνέρων for ἀνδρῶν is used by the Attic dramatists in choric and other lyrical passages only.

1260. φονίαν τάλαιάν τε... ὑπ' ἄλαστόρων, *by fiends made bloody and cruel*. The construction of ὑπὸ and genitive with these adjectives is very similar to the use with neuter verbs; see last note. ἀλάστορες. According to Greek belief the perpetrators of great crimes, and particularly those who outraged their near relations, were pursued by evil beings who drove them to the commission of fresh crimes and at last brought them to punishment. Medea in betraying her father and murdering her brother had exposed herself to these ἀλάστορες, as well as by the murder of Pelias. Cf. 1333.

1261. μάταν ἔρρει, *is vainly wasted*. ἔρρω which appears originally to have meant simply *go*, acquired like ὄχομαι the

sense *be lost, perish*, and this sense in the case of *ἔρρω* ultimately excluded the original.

1266. **προσπίτνει**. Here apparently *assail* governing *σοι*. If so, the use is unique; *προσπίτνειν* commonly means *to fall upon* in the sense of *to embrace* and hence *to supplicate*: but see Aesch. *Pers.* 461 where it is used of arrows *falling*. **φόνος ἀμείβεται**, *Murder responds*, i.e. rises up in the soul at the bidding of Wrath (*χόλος*).

1268—1270. The mss. give

χαλεπά γὰρ βροτοῖς ὁμογενῆ μιά-
σματ' ἐπὶ γαῖαν αὐτοφόνταις συνφ-
δα θεόθεν πίτνοντ' ἐπὶ δόμοις ἄχη,

with variations *ξυνωδά* and *σύνουδα*. So written the words have neither construction nor sense, and are clearly in some way erroneous. The translation of the text adopted is *For the pollution of kindred blood is dangerous to man, and I know that ever afresh (ἔτι) woes fall from heaven upon the murderous house*. On this theory of divine punishment see 1260 and note. **χαλεπά**, *difficult to bear*. **αὐτοφόνταισιν** may be either an adjective agreeing with *δόμοις*, or a substantive for *murderers*; if a substantive it is dative of the person interested and would be rendered in English by the possessive, *upon the house of the murderer*.

[Dr I. Schmidt proposes *μάσματ'...αἰάν'*, i.e. *αἰανὰ* from *αἰανός*, two short syllables being supposed to be lost before *αἰάν'*.]

1271. The cries of the children are heard within.

1272 is probably spurious.

1273—1292. A second strophe and antistrophe in dochmiac metre, interrupted in three places (but see note on 1282) by iambic couplets.

1275. **παρέλθω**; deliberative subjunctive, *am I to enter?* English *shall I?*

1276. Observe carefully that *τέκνοις* does not mean *from the children*, which would require *τέκνων*, but is the favourite Greek dative of the person interested, literally *to keep off death for the children*. Cf. *Herakl.* 840, *οὐκ ἀρήξετ' αἰσχύνην πόλει* and *ἀμύνειν* in *Ihes.* 787, *ἐγὼ δ' ἀμύνων θήρας ἐξεγείρομαι πώλοισιν*.

1277. **ἐν δέοντι γάρ**. Supply *ἀρήξετε* or the like, from the preceding imperative; *you will aid where there is need*, i.e. your aid is needed.

1278. ἀρκύων ξίφους, *sword-net*, a forced metaphor. An armed ambush is called βρόχοι ξιφήφοροι *sworded snare* in *Herc. Fur.* 729, but this is different. It is not improbable that 1278 is interpolated and that in reality only one child here speaks, the other being already slain.

1279. ἄρ' ἦσθα. ἄρα with the imperfect marks the discovery of something true before but not observed; *thou wast*—we should say *art—then*.

1280. ἄτις, causal relative, *seeing that thou*; Latin *qui* with the subjunctive. τέκνων is 'attracted' to the case of the relative ὦν, for κτενεῖς τέκνα, ὦν ἄροτον ἔτεκες. ὦν is genitive of that in which a thing consists; we may render in English *wilt slay thy children, the seed that thou didst bear*. Others ὄν, which would be represented by *wilt slay the child-seed (τέκνων ἄροτον) which thou didst bear*.

1282. μίαν. Probably Themisto, whose story with that of Ino was dramatised by Euripides in a lost play bearing the name of *Ino*. Themisto, intending to murder the children of Ino, was deceived by Ino so as to murder her own, and on discovering the truth slew herself—flung herself into the sea, if we accept the allusion here. The iambic lines 1284, 1285, which refer the allusion to Ino, were probably inserted by the error of a commentator, as Ino did not murder her children: she and her husband Athamas were maddened by Hera (ἡ Διὸς ὀάμαρ, 1284); Athamas slew their elder child, and Ino drowned herself with the younger.

1283. βαλεῖν for the prose προσβαλεῖν, *to lay upon*, governing the dative τέκνοις. Cf. *Phoen.* 1535. The mss. readings ἐν φίλοις χεῖρα προσβαλεῖν, ἐν φίλοις χεῖρα βαλεῖν are incorrect in construction.

1285. ἐπεμψεν ἄλη, *sent in frenzy*; the dative is used like the Latin ablative of circumstance. See 1295.

1286. Even Themisto, the only murderess of her children whom the Chorus can call to mind, did not do the act with knowledge, and condemned herself by suicide. πίπτει, *flung herself*. See 1170 and note on 1256. φόνῳ, causal dative, *because of*. Cf. *Bacch.* 1120, μηδὲ ταῖς ἐμαῖς ἀμαρτίαισι σπέρμα σὸν κατακτάνης, *do not slay thy offspring because of my transgression*.

1287. This and the next line are metrically superfluous and probably have the same origin as 1284, 1285.

1290. τί...δεινόν; *what after this (ἔτι) can be strange?* the climax of the horrible is already reached.

1292. **βροτοῖς ἔρεξας**, *hast caused among* (lit. *for*) *men*, not *hast done to men*, which would require *βροτούς*.

1293. Jason enters accompanied by servants (see 1314). He questions the women sternly as to the whereabouts of Medea. It must be remembered that he knows their sympathy, and may well divine their privy to the murder of the princess. It is this which gives meaning to the words *who stand near this house*. He implies that after what has happened the neighbourhood is suspicious.

1294. **ἡ τὰ δειν' ἐργασμένη**. Jason shrinks instinctively from describing the murder in plain words, and calls it *this horrible thing*.

1295. **τοῖσδ' ἔτ'**. MSS. *τοῖσδε γ' οἱ τοῖσιν*. **φυγῆ**, for the construction compare *ἀλγ*, 1285.

1296. In construction *ιν* and *γῆς* depend upon *δεῖ*, while *σφε κρυφθῆναι κάτω* is 'epexegetic' or explanatory; literally therefore, *she needs the earth, for her to be hidden under*, i.e. *she needs the earth to hide under*. For the construction *δεῖ τινά τινος*, see the Dictionary under *δέω*. In the next clause the construction, as frequently happens in Greek, is slightly modified—*or she must soar etc.* **βάθος αἰθέρος**, translated by 'the azure deep of air'.

1301. **ἀλλά... γάρ** marks an interruption of thought. Cf. 1085, 1344.

1302. **κακῶς** belongs both to *ἔδρασεν* and *ἐρξουσιν*: the subject (*ἐκεῖνοι*) to *ἐρξουσιν* is to be supplied from the relative *οὔς*.

1304. *Lest the relations* (of the murdered bride) *do me them some harm*, as an English writer might have said in the 16th century. The direct object of *δράσωσι* is *αὐτοῦς* supplied from *παίδων*: *μοι* is dative of the person interested. **τι**, emphatic, often used in a bad sense.

1305. **μητρῶον**, *done by their mother*.

1306. **οἱ κακῶν**, *how far in misery*: a partitive genitive, as in *ποῦ γῆς*; *where in the world?*

1307. **οὐ... ἂν ἐφθέγξω**. In negative conditional sentences of this form the protasis (here *εἰ ἤδησθα*) is frequently omitted.

1308. **ἦ που**; *Certainly it may be?* or in English, *Ah, doubtless*, anticipates without surprise, and has here a sarcastic force. **ἦ που** is generally used in positive assertions, but there seems to be no reason why it should not be used with an interrogative tone in such a case as the present, which differs

widely from 695, where see note. It is possible, however, that we ought to read, ἢ ποῦ *Or perhaps*.

1309. παῖδες σέθεν together.

1310. τί λέξεις; In questions of this kind, expressing extreme horror and dismay, the verb is frequently put in the future (cf. *Hel.* 780, *Hipp.* 353, *Hec.* 511, 713, 1124, *Ion* 1113, *Phoen.* 1274) as if the speaker, unable to believe his ears, waited to be told again before grasping the sense.

1311. Literally, *Think from this moment* (δὴ here nearly synonymous with ἤδη) *in the belief that thy children are no more, i.e. Thy children are not: take it for certain.* ὡς with the genitive absolute states a fact ascertained or presupposed.

1312. Jason is still half incredulous with amazement. Hence γάρ, which in such questions often seems to imply a thought—*it cannot be for, etc.* In English we say *Where then? How then?* and the like.

1316. τὴν δὲ...φόνῳ. The sentence which would have concluded regularly in such a form as τὴν δὲ τίσουσιν φόνον, is modified in order to express more emphatically the purpose of revenge: *both horrible things, the children dead, and her—she shall pay with her blood.* Other mss. τίσωμαι, depending on ὡς—that she may pay.

1317. From the old Greek commentary and introduction to the play we learn that Medea, with the bodies of the children, here appears in a chariot drawn by dragons (ἐπὶ ἄρματος δρακόντων περρωτῶν), and no doubt raised above the stage by machinery. She is secure of her flight to Athens, and defies Jason in safety.

ἀναμοχλεύεις, *unbarrest.* μοχλός is here the *bar* of the gate (not a *lever*). The preposition in ἀναμοχλεύειν has a negative force as in ἀνακαλύπτειν.

1327. ἤλιόν τε καὶ γαίαν. See on 1251.

1329. The truth, which Jason *now perceives but missed before*, is set forth in 1333, *the gods have directed upon me the avenging spirit of thy family; a wife laden with the curses of a father and brother could but bring ill to her husband.*

1330. δόμον, βαρβάρου must be supplied.

1333. τῶν σῶν, masculine. οἱ σοί=*thy friends.* τὸν σὸν or τὸν σὸν δ' mss. Ὀν ἀλάστωρ see 1260.

1334. κτανούσα παρέστιον, *at the hearth*, the place sacred to family union. According to another version of the story, Apsyrtos was slain upon the Argo.

1337. ἀνδρὶ τῷδε=ἐμοί, and so frequently in all cases.

1340. ὦν. The plural Ἑλληνίδων is to be supplied from the general Ἑλληνίς, any Greek.

1341. κῆδος, in apposition not to σε but to the notion γάμον implied in γῆμαί σε—in full, ‘with whom to wed was an alliance etc.’

1342. λέαιναν: we should choose *tigress* as the symbol of cruelty; but the lion and lioness had a less noble name to Greek ears. Τυρσηνίδος. This is geographically vague, as the Messenian strait associated with Scylla is not ‘Tyrrhene’ or Tuscan in the usual sense. The point of the epithet here is to show that Scylla, like Medea, was barbarian.

1346. αἰσχροποιέ, *artist in villainy*. He taunts her with being a professional murderess and poisoner (φαρμακίς), alluding to her successive victims, Apsyrtos, Pelias, his daughters, the princess, Kreon, and her own children. The termination -ποιος belongs to trade-names, as λογχοποιός, *spear-maker*; ἀνδριαντοποιός, *statuary*, etc. τέχνην μαιφόνε, *murderous by trade*, lit. *as to trade*, pursuing the idea of αἰσχροποιός. τέκνων μαιφόνε mss., which the copyists supposed to mean *murderess of thy children*, but the adj. μαιφόνος cannot govern a genitive.

1347. πάρα=πάρεστι (observe the accent).

1350. ἔξω προσειπεῖν ζῶντας. Two constructions are in point of grammar equally possible: (1) *I shall not be able to speak to my children alive*; (2)—taking παῖδας as the subject of προσειπεῖν, and προσειπεῖν ζῶντας as explanatory of ἔξω παῖδας—*I shall not have the children surviving to bid me farewell*. προσειπεῖν has in addition to its general meaning the special sense of *to give last greeting or bid adieu* (see *Hipp.* 1099, προσείπαθ’ ἡμᾶς καὶ προπέμψατε χθονός), and was applied technically to the solemn farewell which formed part of the Greek ritual for the dead (see *Alkest.* 609, τὴν θανούσαν ὡς νομίζεται προσείπατε). According to Greek sentiment, to be buried by one’s children was a matter of immense importance and one of the chief objects of marriage (see 1035 of this play, *Alk.* 662, and many other passages); and this gives much probability to the second interpretation, especially as the first, though apparently simpler, would rather require οὐκέτι instead of οὐ, and makes ζῶντας superfluous.

ἀπώλεσα, mss. Others ἀπώλεσας, which is more forcible. Jason would naturally end with a reproach.

1351. μακρὰν ἂν ἐξέτεινα, a colloquial ellipse in which λόγους, ῥῆσιν or the like must be supplied. It occurs also in *Aesch. Ag.* 916.

1353. *How you have been done by and how you did by me.* cf. 488. There is practically little difference here between the perf. *πέπονθας* and the aorist *εἰργάσω*, but the perfect emphasizes the *permanence* of the undischarged debt of gratitude. It is important to remember that the Greek perfect, differing in this from the English perfect, frequently expresses the present result of past actions; thus *ὁ εὖ πεπονθώς* means *a person under obligation*. *εἰργάσω*. The form of the augment is exceptional, *ε-* generally becoming *η-* in augmented tenses. The reason of this is that *ει-* in *εἰργασάμην* is not really a temporal augment, but a contraction from *ε-εργασάμην*. The verb *εἰργάζομαι* once had an initial *F* (digamma = English *w*) and therefore like other verbs beginning with a consonant, took the syllabic augment.

1356. *προθείς, offered.* So. MSS. *προσθείς, added*, that is, *gave you your second wife*.

1357. *ἀνατί.* Some MSS. *ἀτίμως* or *ἀτιμον*. *ἐκβαλεῖν* future infinitive, depending on *ἐμελλε* supplied.

1358. *πρὸς ταῦτα, in face of this*, a frequent formula of defiance, implying that the speaker will hold to what he has said. It may be rendered in English by *So. καὶ λέαινα, even lioness* or other name that pleases you.

1359 inserted in imitation of 1342 to complete the construction of *καὶ λέαιναν*, which was supposed to mean *both a lioness... Τυρσηνὸν πέδον*. *Seylla did not dwell on Tyrrhene ground*, nor on any 'ground' (see on 1342), nor would Euripides have given this precision to his poetical geography.

1360. *ἀνθηψάμην, gripped*, or, as we should say, *wrung*.

1362. *λύει = λυσιτελεῖ.* *ἄλγος*, nominative. Another construction is also grammatically possible (*τό σε μὴ ἐγγελαῶν*) *λύει ἄλγος, it relieves the pain*.

1364. *νόσφ, weakness* (moral).

1367. *κηξίωσας = καὶ ἡξίωσας.* The *καὶ* puts emphasis on the word—*Was it worth to thee?*

1369. *σοι...κακά, in thy sight all is evil*, i.e. thy evil mind turns all things to harm. Others *σοῦ*, partitive genitive; *in thee all is evil, thou hast no virtue*.

1370. *Medea wisely changes the subject.* *γάρ* (I say this), *for*. In such cases we do not in our idiom use any conjunction, but the frequency of disconnected sentences (*asyndeta*) is one of the chief differences of English as compared with Greek.

1371. *οἶμαι*, like the Latin *opinor*, often expresses not doubt but assurance, *nay, surely* or *I trow*. MSS. *οἶμοι, ὦμοι*,

or ᾤμοι. Others ὤμοι, *cruel*. εἰσι, *emphatic*; *live*. μιάστορες = ἀλάστορες.

1374. **βάξιν.** βάζεις is known elsewhere only in two closely connected meanings, (1) *rumour* and (2) *oracular voice*: φήμη is a synonym in both. As neither is suitable here, it is probable that this is a different word, derived not from βάζειν, *to speak* (if such a verb existed) but from βάζω (= βαΐζω, cf. κράζω and κραυγή), *to bark or make the noise of a dog*, which occurs in Aesch. *Cho.* 881, κῶφοις αὐτῶ καὶ καθεύδουσιν μάτην ἄκραντα βάζω, *I shriek to the deaf and vainly bay* (like a watch-dog) *without effect to men asleep*, and in Aesch. *Pers.* 530, οὐδ' ἔτι γλῶσσα βροτοῖσιν ἐν φυλακαῖς λέλυται γὰρ λαὸς ἐλευθερα βάζειν, *the tongue of mankind is no longer under a muzzle (or gag), for the people are released to vent their howling freely*, and elsewhere. If so it should be properispomenon ἄνωτ' βάζεις but βᾶξεις (cf. κρῶξεις, σῆξεις, γρῶξεις). πικρὸς is frequently used of unpleasant sounds. Translate, *I am weary of thy harsh snarling*.

[Dr Ludwig Schmidt, while allowing the general correctness of my remarks in the larger edition on βάζω in tragedy, suggests the rendering *I loath thy hateful name* ('wir möchten das Wort im Sinne von "Namen" fassen'), referring for illustration to Aesch. *Sept.* 571, κακοῖσι βάζει πολλὰ Τυδῆως βίαν, Ἐρινύος κλητήρα, πρόσπολον φόνου, where the translation, *he gives ill names*, is certainly most appropriate, though not necessary, as we may render *he howls reproaches at him*. In fact, if there were really two verbs, (1) βάζω meaning primarily *to bark* but applied in a large variety of metaphors to human language of an insolent, defiant, or angry tone, and (2) βάζω, *to speak*, they must have tended to confusion in use, and it will inevitably be difficult for us to distribute the extant examples between them. But if βάζω, *to bark*, will cover the field, βάζω, *to speak*, has yet to prove its existence, nor can any proof be satisfactory which does not include a scientific derivation of the word from some root having that meaning. The Homeric examples of βάζω prove, in my judgment, nothing either way, and the strongest argument for βάζω, *to speak*, is the existence of βᾶξεις in its common meanings. Without pretending to speak positively, I still think it possible that both the *rumour* of a crowd and the crooning *voice* of an oracle were originally called βᾶξεις from their sound, which suggested to the ear the prolonged whine of a dog. Of course this origin must have been wholly forgotten before βᾶξεις could be used as we find it in literature, but this is a common phenomenon in the history of language.]

1375. ῥᾶδιον agrees in gender with the sense (τὸ ἀπαλλάσσεισθαι) expressed by ἀπαλλαγῆαι, *parting is easy*. Cf. *Phoen.* 963, δῆλον οἷ γ' ἐμοὶ λόγοι, *at least what I say is plain*. Such

a concordance is *σχῆμα κατὰ σύνεσιν*, 'a construction according to the sense.'

1377. *κλαῦσαι*, one ms., the majority *καῦσαι*. If *καῦσαι* be read the order of the words in *θάψαι καὶ καῦσαι* is the reverse of the order in time; or, as the Greek grammarians said, there is a *ὑστερον πρότερον*. *πάρες*, see *παρήμι*.

1379. "*Ἦρας τέμενος Ἀκραίας*. There was a temple of Hera Akraia (Juno Acraea) or 'Hera on the Cape,' on a promontory over against Sikyon and therefore in the neighbourhood of Corinth (Liv. xxxii. 23). This is probably the temple here mentioned. Medea will not bury the children in Corinthian soil for the reason next given.

1380. *αὐτοῦ*, here, i.e. in Corinth. *καθυβρίση* may be taken absolutely *triumph in rifling the graves*, or may have for object either *παῖδας* (supplied) or *τύμβους*. The first way is perhaps the best. mss. *αὐτοῦς* or *αὐτῶν*. The use of superfluous pronouns is not according to the style of Euripides.

1381. *γῆ Σισύφου*, Corinth, called from the founder of its royal house, as Athens is called *γαῖα Ἐρεχθέως*. Cf. 405, and on the *έορτή* see the commencement of the Introduction.

1386. Medea was a prophetess, as well as an enchantress; in Pindar's fourth Pythian Ode she is made to foretell the fortunes of one of the Argonauts whose descendants, according to the legend, colonized the island of Thera.

1388. *νέων*. mss. *έμῶν*, but this does not give a point which Medea would care to make. It should be observed that this passage (1384—1388) is of doubtful authorship.

1391. *θεός ἢ δαίμων*. The *Ἐρινός* were properly *θεοί*, *Δίκη* not precisely a *goddess* but a *δαίμων* or divine *power*.

1392. *ξενεπάτου* properly 'false to one who befriended thee in a foreign land.' She refers to the relations between herself and Jason in Kolchis.

1393. *φεῦ φεῦ*. *Fie upon thee!* *φεῦ* is an exclamation of anger as well as of grief, and must not everywhere be rendered by 'Alas!'

1396. *This is not yet lamentation; wait till old age be added*, literally *wait for old age also*. i.e. 'The measure of thy punishment and grief is not yet full.' When the father in the natural course would expect *γηροβοσκείσθαι*, he would feel more deeply the loss of children.

The anapaestic metre, in which 1389—1419 is written, consisting of dactyls (— — —), spondees (— —), and anapaests (— — —), is subject to the rule of *synaphea* (*συνάφεια*, from *συναφής con-*

*tinuous, συνάπτω, to fit together) or continuity of the lines. Thus if one line ends with a vowel and the next begins with a vowel, the first vowel must be elided (1398), a long vowel or diphthong must be followed by a consonant in the next line (1392), and a short vowel followed by a consonant at the end of a line cannot be counted as long unless the next line begins with a consonant (1394)—in short the rules of scansion for the last syllables of lines are the same as for any other syllables. But in 1396 this rule is violated: γήρας is scanned as two long syllables, though the α is short and the next line begins with a vowel. This might be rectified without much injury to the force of the expression by substituting γήρασκ' (γήρασκε); but in Eur. *El.* 1333 there is an exception apparently not corrigible. There, as here, the two lines belong to different speakers, and it is probable that in such a case the rule was not strictly observed.*

1398. **ἔκτας**, see κτείνω.

1399. **στόματος** depends upon χρῆζω, and προσπτύξασθαι (αὐτό) is a further explanation (expegegesis)—literally, *I long for the lips of my children to kiss*, i.e. *I long to kiss etc.* The construction is frequent with verbs of desiring, e.g. Herod. v. 38, εἶδε γὰρ δὴ συμμαχίης τινός οἱ μεγάλης ἐξευρεθῆναι, *he needed to find out a powerful alliance.*

1401. **προσανδᾶς**. *Now thou wouldst give them farewell and blessing.* See on προσειπεῖν 1350. προσανδᾶω (in prose προσαγορεύω) is the corresponding present tense. τότε, the regular Greek equivalent for the English *before*, in contrasts between past and present. ἀπωσάμενος, see ἀπωθέω.

1408. **πάρα** = πάρεστι.

1413. The point of the wish lies, as often, in the participle, *Would I had not begot them, to see them after all (ἐπι) slain by thee!* ὄφελον, properly ὠφελον. So ὄφελε for ὠφέλε in anapaests, Aesch. *Pers.* 915. The omission of the augment is commonly admitted by the tragedians only in lyrical passages and in the narratives (ρήσεις) of messengers, such as 1136—1230, in which the influence of the old epic language is stronger. ὄφελον, however, seems to be an exception and appears even in later prose. See ὄφειλω and cf. 1.

1415—1419. This 'tag' appears at the conclusion of four other plays of Euripides (*Alk.*, *Hel.*, *Bacch.*, *Androm.*), and another at the end of three (*Iph. Taur.*, *Orest.*, *Phoen.*). They were appended in acting without regard to the contents of the play, and sometimes, as here, are not particularly appropriate.

GRAMMATICAL INDEX.

The following table is intended not merely or chiefly to facilitate reference, but to assist the study of the text from the side of grammar. The student is recommended, after reading the play, to work carefully through the passages and notes indicated, especially if he is studying without other help.

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